

Judge rules against Curtis before July trial begins

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Iowa District Court Judge Arthur Gamble ruled on June 25 that Mark Curtis' 1988 conviction on frame-up rape and burglary charges establishes his guilt in a civil lawsuit against him by Keith and Denise Morris.

The Morrises are the parents of the woman Curtis allegedly assaulted. They are seeking financial damages from Curtis for the "pain and suffering" they claim he inflicted on their daughter. The trial in the lawsuit is scheduled to open July 9 in Des Moines, Iowa, and jurors will now be limited to deciding what kind of financial award the Morrises should receive.

Curtis is currently appealing his 1988 criminal conviction to the Iowa Supreme Court on grounds that he did not receive a fair trial and that his rights under the U.S. Constitution and Iowa state law were violated by the rulings of the trial judge.

In upholding the motion for summary judgment, Judge Gamble wrote that he had "reviewed a partial transcript of the criminal trial" and that "the record demonstrates Curtis received a fair trial."

"The factual issues were fully presented to the jury" and "all admissible evidence was received. The potential for error by the trial judge was fully reviewed by the Iowa Court of Appeals," Gamble stated. "The conviction was affirmed in an opinion filed April 24, 1990, by the Court of Appeals," he added.

"Curtis was afforded a full and fair opportunity to litigate the issue" of whether he committed the crime of rape "in the criminal trial," the judge said. "It is preclusively established that Mark Curtis sexually assaulted" the Morrises' daughter "as alleged in Plaintiff's Petition," he concluded.

Gamble ordered that Curtis' guilt for the purposes of the lawsuit had been established by the criminal trial. "This matter shall come on trial July 9, 1990, at 9:00 a.m. on the issue

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'Continue sanctions,' says Nelson Mandela

BY ANDREA MORELL,
GREG McCARTAN,
AND IKE NAHEM

A quarter of a million people thronged Boston's riverside park, the Esplanade, to welcome Nelson Mandela and cheer the African National Congress deputy president's call to keep the pressure on the apartheid regime.

"As a result of our struggle, apartheid is falling into pieces," Mandela said to the roar of the crowd. "Our country stands at the threshold of a major and fundamental democratic transformation. Indeed, victory is in sight."

Mandela's June 23 visit to Boston followed a packed three-day schedule of rallies, meetings, and press events in New York City. The ANC leader, his wife Winnie Mandela, and other leaders of the liberation organization are on a 14-day, 11-city tour of Canada and the United States.

Mandela has focused on explaining the goals and character of the continued battle to rid South Africa of apartheid, why racism and denial of human rights anywhere in the world is a blow to all humanity, and the importance of the worldwide campaign to maintain the economic and political isolation of the hated apartheid system.

"Join us in walking the last mile," he urged the Boston rally. "We have no illusion that it may yet prove to be the most difficult mile of our long march to freedom. Sanctions must be continued until fundamental and irreversible change takes place in our troubled country."

At the end of his speech, Mandela invited Sen. Edward Kennedy, Gov. Michael Dukakis, and Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn to join him on the platform in a show of commitment to the goal of a democratic, nonracial South Africa.

The vast multiracial and markedly youthful assembly overflowed the Esplanade into surrounding streets and onto nearby rooftops and balconies. The ANC colors were everywhere among the crowd — on T-shirts, banners,

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Roberto A. Lugo

100,000 in Harlem welcome African National Congress leader on June 21

Anti-apartheid struggle: challenge for U.S. labor

Since Nelson Mandela began his 11-city tour through North America, he has addressed hundreds of thousands of people who have waited at airports, crowded into stadiums, and lined streets to welcome him and hear him speak. Millions more have

EDITORIAL

seen television broadcasts of his speeches, including to the Canadian Parliament, the United Nations, and the U.S. Congress, as well as the many interviews.

Millions of working people have been inspired and uplifted by the world-renowned freedom fighter and more deeply educated about the goals of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. As Mandela explains the world significance of the fight to overthrow the apartheid system, millions have become

newly motivated to make a contribution in the fight for a democratic South Africa.

Throughout his tour Mandela has pushed to keep international pressure on the apartheid state, including maintaining economic sanctions. He has explained that although the apartheid system is beginning to crumble, major hurdles remain. The masses in South Africa "are ready for the final battle," he said, but significant international support is needed.

As part of this effort Mandela is effectively countering the attempt by South African President F.W. de Klerk to encourage governments throughout the world to lift sanctions. The European Community's decision in Dublin, Ireland, June 26 to keep economic sanctions in place, despite objections by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, registered the advances Mandela is making.

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Efforts to pass antidemocratic constitution in Canada fail

BY STEVE PENNER

MONTRÉAL — On June 25, two days after the defeat of the Canadian federal government's desperate last-ditch efforts to obtain Québec's signature on the 1982 Canadian constitution, one quarter of a million Québécois poured into the streets of this city. It was the biggest celebration of the *Fête nationale*, Québec's national holiday, since the 1960s. It was backed by all three of Québec's labor federations and by the main farmers' organization.

Altogether a half million took part in *Fête nationale* events across the province.

While organizers tried to keep the Montréal parade nonpolitical, Québec nationalist chants were enthusiastically picked up by a

large portion of the participants. The end of the parade was transformed into a spontaneous march of tens of thousands. Both were a sea of Québec flags.

"Meech Lake is dead. Québec is alive!" was one of the more popular chants.

The Meech Lake constitutional amendment was drawn up in 1987 by the federal and Québec governments in an effort to overcome the opposition of a majority of Québécois to Canada's 1982 constitution. The amendment stated that Québec was a "distinct society" within the Canadian federation. The accord was to be approved by all 10 Canadian provincial governments and the Ottawa govern-

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Special Offer

A new publication from Pathfinder in time for African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela's North America tour! **Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990: 'Intensify the Struggle to Abolish Apartheid.'**

This 74-page pamphlet features seven of Mandela's speeches delivered since his release from prison in February 1990, including his address in Luanda, Angola, and at Wembley Stadium in London. The pamphlet also includes Mandela's July 1989 letter from prison to P.W. Botha and the Freedom Charter.

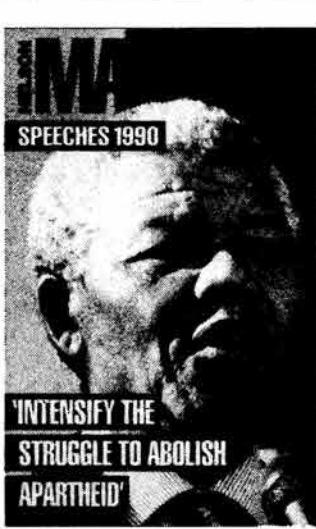
The new pamphlet, together with **New International No.5**, which features articles on the struggle in southern Africa, and an introductory subscription

to the **Militant**, which carries on-the-scene reports from South Africa and news about other battles by working people around the world, makes a powerful package that every trade unionist, anti-apartheid activist, and student will want to buy and read.

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Sales on the job boosted campaign in Australia

BY RONI McCANN

CHICAGO — Supporters of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, the French-language quarterly *Lutte*

Andrews from Sydney reported some of the highlights in an interview here during the Socialist Workers Party convention June 7–10.

A centerpiece of the circulation

tion per table."

On some Saturdays supporters went on regional trips while during the week they sold at political events. A copy of *New International* issue No. 5 on southern Africa and a subscription to the *Militant* were sold to anti-apartheid activists at a meeting of the Australia Anti-Apartheid Movement.

Each week *Militant* supporters also called readers whose subscriptions were expiring to urge them to renew. "One *Perspectiva Mundial* reader from Uruguay renewed her subscription, bought another for a friend, and purchased a few Pathfinder pamphlets as well," Poulson said.

Andrews described a regional trip to Wollongong, a city in a coal-min-

ing region, where they sold door to door and at a pit head (mine portal). They stopped by the offices of the miners' union in Wollongong where they sold a year's *Militant* subscription. One person there had already subscribed to the paper at a meeting of the International Miners' Organisation.

"Five of the new subscribers in Australia work at TRW car component factory in Sydney and are members of the Amalgamated Metal Workers Union. TRW is a plant of 500 workers who come from as many as 50 different countries," Poulson said.

He explained the importance of weekly sales at the TRW factory gate. "Some workers would buy a copy of the paper and supporters

who worked inside later asked if they liked it and urged them to get a subscription."

Militant supporters in the plant drew up a list of coworkers and began introducing them to the paper.

Upon receiving his first issue of the *Militant*, one worker began reading an article on the U.S. tour of Cuban author and economist Carlos Tablada. Another commented on the successful sales campaign in Australia after noting the final figures in the subscription scoreboard.

Two of the new readers in the plant have already placed orders for the new Pathfinder book *Trade Unions in the Epoch of Imperialist Decay*, by Karl Marx and Leon Trotsky that they saw advertised in the *Militant*.

Sales are up as ANC leader takes cities by storm

BY RONI McCANN

"Nelson Mandela stands for F-I-G-H-T! Plain and simple," declared one Brooklyn high school student. "He makes you understand that we can believe in something and stick with it until we win," said another. "He's my hero — he's everyone's hero, Black and white!" concluded a third.

As African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela continues his 11-stop U.S.-Canada tour he is taking cities by storm. Millions of working people have turned out to get a glimpse of him or have heard him on radio or TV.

After hearing the ANC leader explain the goals of the freedom struggle in South Africa, thousands and thousands are attracted to his principled and uncompromising stance — and they want to learn more.

Since Mandela began his North American tour June 16, working people, youth, and other opponents of apartheid in Montréal, Toronto, New York, and Boston have purchased 869 copies of the *Militant* and 127 have subscribed. In addition, 2,570 copies of the new Pathfinder pamphlet *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990: Intensify the Struggle to Abolish Apartheid* have been sold, as well as 49 copies of *New International* issue No. 5 and \$5,349 of Pathfinder literature.

During Mandela's visit, supporters of the *Militant* are offering introductory 12-week subscriptions to the paper and *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990* for \$10. For an additional \$5 new readers can also pick up a copy of *New International* No. 5, which features "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" by Jack Barnes.

After the first week of the tour, all 20,000 copies of *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990* had been shipped out and Pathfinder went back to print. A news release announcing the

pamphlet was picked up by Associated Press and subsequently appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Amsterdam News*, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *Ocala Star-Banner*, and the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

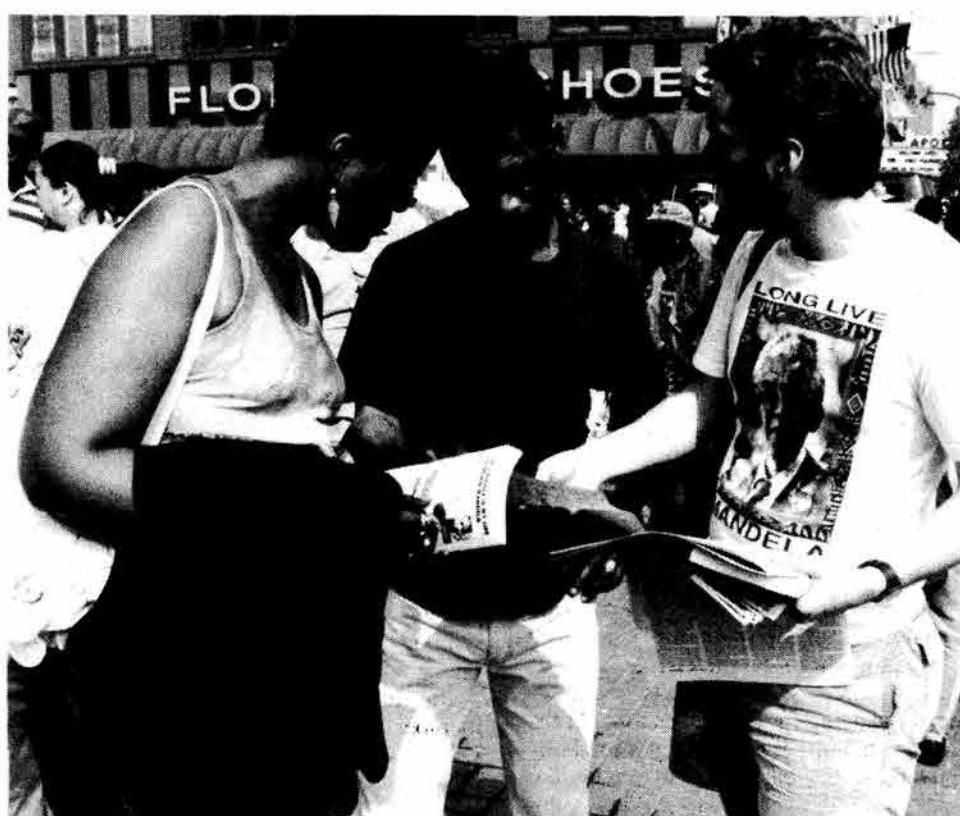
New York's *City Sun* featured an ad for the pamphlet and reprinted Mandela's letter to Pieter Botha in the June 20–26 issue. In Boston, Pathfinder Bookstore representative Betsy Soares did a 15-minute interview on the significance of the new pamphlet and the book *The Struggle Is My Life* by Mandela — also published by Pathfinder — on WZOU radio that aired June 24. The *Bay State Banner* there also reviewed the book.

In New York, where Mandela received a tumultuous welcome during his three-day stopover, 500 copies of the *Militant* were sold and 71 people subscribed. As well, 1,650 copies of *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990* and more than \$3,000 in Pathfinder literature were purchased.

At a sales table located outside of Yankee Stadium prior to Mandela's rally June 21, more than 500 copies of *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990*, two dozen *Militant* subscriptions, and \$1,000 in literature were snapped up by rally-goers.

In New Jersey while Mandela was in the area supporters sold 28 copies of the new pamphlet and two special offers of a *Militant* subscription and a pamphlet to coworkers in chemical plants, electronic plants, on the railroad, and at the bulk mail center. At the weekly plant gate sale at Newark International Airport workers bought three copies of *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990* and one copy of *New International* No. 5.

In Boston at a rally to hear Mandela on the Esplanade, 648 copies of *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990* were sold along with 189 *Militants* and \$400 in Pathfinder literature.



Sales of new pamphlet and *Militant* in Harlem June 21 during Mandela's New York tour.

Militant supporters are also stepping up sales of the paper and new pamphlet in other cities. In Sydney, Australia, Mandela's tour is the biggest thing on the news, reported Ron Poulson. One worker at a car-component plant there had already bought *The Struggle Is My Life*, by Mandela and picked up a copy of the pamphlet as well.

In Kansas City, Missouri, 89 copies of *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990* have been sold during the tour, 64 of which were sold

on the job to auto and rail workers. Eight readers were also won to the *Militant*.

In Norton, Virginia, during the June 22–24 Coal Employment Project conference of women miners, eight participants signed up to get the *Militant* for 12 weeks along with a copy of *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990*. At the annual miners' gala in Yorkshire, England, on June 16, miners and others bought 50 copies of the *Militant* and 16 copies of the new pamphlet of Mandela's speeches.



If your subscription is running out you'll want to renew it right away so as not to miss on-the-scene reports in the *Militant* from Nelson Mandela's 11-city tour through Canada and the United States.

The *Militant* will also be featuring speeches Mandela gives during and following his tour. The paper has consistently reported on the struggle against apartheid and recently sent a reporting team to South Africa.

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Militant/Greg McCartan

Eastern strikers welcoming Mandela at Manhattan ticker-tape parade

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

Among the many hundreds of thousands of people who are welcoming Nelson Mandela to the United States are members of the International Association of Machinists on strike against Eastern Airlines.

During Mandela's visit to New York City, strikers turned out at a number of his public appearances.

At the ticker-tape parade in Manhattan on June 20, where an outpouring of people lined the streets, two dozen Machinists grabbed a spot and draped their banner so it faced the street. It read, "Eastern strikers welcome Nelson Mandela — Keep the pressure on!" Their banner got a good response from those on the sidewalk.

For the big rally at Yankee Stadium on June 21, strikers purchased a block of 65 tickets so they could attend and bring their families. Some of the Eastern Machinists on strike in Philadelphia joined the contingent at the stadium, as did some IAM members working at TWA and United Airlines.

During the rally the Machinists once again gave a big welcome to Mandela by lowering their banner over the stadium balcony so it could be seen from the stage.

Strikers also helped participate in the advance organizing for Mandela's tour. At the stadium when the fund pitch was made by Cleveland Robinson, secretary-treasurer of United Auto Workers District 65, Eastern strikers were among the army of unionists who were assigned the big task of collecting donations from the audience.

Ernie Mailhot, staff strike coordinator of IAM Local 1018 at La Guardia Airport reports, "There's been a lot of interest in Mandela's tour here among strikers. In the union headquarters we've all been having lots of discussion. People watched Ted Koppel's TV interview with Mandela and were very impressed with the ANC leader's response to the questions he was asked."

The strikers in New York distributed a flier at Mandela events they attended, announcing an expanded picket line for June 23. The leaflet's headline read, "Eastern Airlines

Strikers Welcome Nelson Mandela." The text explained, "We, the members of the International Association of Machinists on strike at Eastern Airlines, join with unions internationally in welcoming the freeing of Nelson Mandela and the unbanning of the African National Congress. These important victories for the people of South Africa strengthen all of us who are fighting for justice throughout the world."

In Boston, Eastern striker and IAM Local 1726 member Maggie Pucci reports her union local encouraged its members to attend the Mandela rally in that city. On June 23

nine strikers participated in the event, which was at Boston's Esplanade along the Charles River.

One of the IAM members who attended the Yankee Stadium rally in New York was John Burke, member of Local 1044 on strike in Pittsburgh. Burke, who brought his son Kevin, joined some friends for the eight-hour trip by car.

"I believe in freedom for people in South Africa," Burke said when interviewed. "I draw some parallels between our fight at Eastern and the fight of the people over in South Africa." Explaining further, he said, "The

situation isn't exactly the same, but what we have in common is that we're both fighting."

When asked what he thought of Mandela's speech that night at the stadium, Burke responded, "I was deeply impressed. He's promoting a single nation, where all races there can live equally." Burke said he really enjoyed being there, and felt very much at home among those gathered.

The Pittsburgh striker explained he thought big changes were coming in South Africa, which couldn't be stopped. "Five million people don't have the right to control 28 million."

Unions protest three deaths at smelter

BY MARY MARTIN

RAVENSWOOD, W.Va. — More than 200 trade unionists and others rallied outside the Ravenswood Aluminum Corp. plant here June 25 protesting the deaths of three union members.

Dead are Jimmy Lee Rider, 38, a crane operator, and two plant security guards, Curtis McClain, 43, and Peter Baltic, 34. All were members of United Steelworkers of America Local 5668.

Dan Stidham, president of the Steelworkers local, explained the purpose of the rally was "to draw attention to the workers' plight, unsafe conditions, and forced overtime, and to commemorate the three deceased workers."

Also present at the rally were Rider's parents and his 18-year-old son. "What we want is for the union and the company to agree to a solution to stop forced overtime. If a man is sick, let him go home. I don't want anyone else to go through what we've gone through," said Maxine Rider.

Rider suffered a fatal heart attack on June 16 while working overtime on the potline, where raw aluminum ore is melted at temperatures of up to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit

and an air temperature that can reach above 140° F.

Four hours prior to his death, Rider, a 17-year employee, had gone to the plant medical department complaining that he didn't feel well. He was told his vital signs were fine and was sent back to work. After his 10th hour of work, Rider collapsed dead.

Two hundred family members, coworkers, and local union representatives attended his funeral in Barboursville, West Virginia, on June 19.

On June 17 McClain and Baltic died of carbon dioxide suffocation in a sub-basement of the plant's cold-rolling mill. Company spokesperson say Baltic apparently died trying to share his air pack with McClain.

Baltic and McClain were buried here in Ravenswood on June 20.

Company takes no responsibility

McClain "should have had an air pack with him. Why he didn't, we don't know," Mike Rubin, a company spokesperson said.

Company spokespersons have expressed "condolences" over the deaths but have taken no responsibility for the fatalities.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has launched an investigation into the deaths.

Several of Rider's coworkers told the *Charleston Gazette* that forced overtime and excessive heat contributed to his death. Charlie McDowell, grievance chairman of Local 5668, said Rider would still be alive if he had not been ordered to work forced overtime.

Ravenswood Aluminum President Don Worledge said that while the potrooms were "certainly hot" they were no worse than other aluminum potlines throughout the world.

On June 18 Ravenswood announced it was shutting down one production line and would immediately lay off 70 to 90 employees.

Company blames union

The official statement blamed the union for these layoffs. "An unexpected and unpredictable shortage in potroom workers recently occurred, requiring union members to work overtime . . . Over the past two weeks because of the number of employees missing scheduled work, a critical condition began to develop that threatened the continued operation of the entire reduction plant."

Union members deny the claim that the labor shortage was "recent" or "unpredictable." Union officer McDowell explained, "Union members have worked thousands of hours of overtime in the potrooms since last September and only 5 percent of that was voluntary."

Matt Munro, a potroom worker for nearly two years and member of the union commit-

Eastern strikers participate in Mandela tour activities

Demonstration in Sweden hits firebombing of refugee camps

BY BIRGITTA ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Five hundred people, mostly youth, gathered here on short notice to protest several recent firebombings of refugee camps.

The May 31 demonstration was called by several organizations, including S.O.S. Asyl, a group that has organized church protests in the past for refugee rights. Six refugee camps have been hit by the bombings.

In Laholm, located in southern Sweden, 15 barracks were burned to the ground. Racist epithets were painted on cement walls left standing at the camp. Near Motala, southwest of Stockholm, 11 people, including three children, were hospitalized after a firebomb exploded in the camp there.

In Sweden immigrants are forced to live in the camps while awaiting permission to stay in the country. There are 29,000 refugees living in the camps today, which are located all over Sweden. Some 20,000 are waiting for a decision allowing them to stay. Until then they cannot receive work permits.

Seven thousand have been granted their papers but cannot leave the camps until the

immigration authorities tell them which city they are allowed to move to. Generally, immigrants live in the camps for about nine months, but many end up waiting several years.

Eight arrests have been made of suspects in the bombings but no one claimed responsibility for them. Whoever the culprits are, however, they have been emboldened by recent anti-immigrant policies of the Swedish government.

In December the government decided that only those refugees who meet the United Nations criteria for political refugee status, a most narrow definition, would be allowed to enter the country. This ruling was met with protests by Swedes and refugees occupying churches.

The day after the recent antiracist demonstration in Stockholm, the Swedish parliament moved to restrict the rights of refugees even further. It will now be easier for police to arrest asylum-seekers when they arrive if they don't have identification. They can also legally body search refugees, and their children can also be arrested.

three for demanding a break before performing extra work assignments and then going to the medical department." But they won their jobs back, he said. The fourth worker, the grievance committee representative from the potrooms, "was charged with inciting a work slowdown and fired," he said. His case is still in arbitration.

"In the spring," Munro said, "the company approached the union wanting to hire a special category of summer workers for the potrooms who would have no union rights or recall rights. The union refused to make an exception to the contract," he said, "so the company didn't hire anyone. Injuries on the job increased."

"On June 15 the company began forcing over entire shifts to work a total of 16 hours in the potrooms," Munro pointed out, and after Rider died, workers refused to work in the potrooms.

"The company then demanded that the union agree to 12-hour potroom shifts, a 'reasonable' offer. The view of the union officers and members was that this offer was intolerable. Many younger workers said, 'I'd rather be laid off than dead.' So the company shut down one potline. To date, 20 workers have received layoff notices," said Munro.

Jimmy Lee Rider's son, Marc, explained, "One thing I want to make clear, I don't want this plant to shut down. I want them to get a good contract so what happened to my father will never, ever happen again."

Kaku scores gains in Canada for int'l campaign

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year sentence in the John Bennett state prison in Fort Madison, Iowa, on a frame-up conviction of rape and burglary.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. For more information

of her very successful month-long tour across Canada. The tour ended June 2. Kaku is a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, and is Curtis' wife.

In Ottawa on May 22-23 she met Dan Heap, a New Democratic Party (NDP) member of the Canadian Parliament; Kathleen Ruff, from the *Canadian Human Rights Advocate*; Bettie Sommers, president of the

Assembly of First Nations, an international organization for the rights of indigenous peoples.

While in Toronto May 24-29, Kaku met many unionists, including Bill Shipman, president of the International Association of Machinists Local 2323, which organizes Air Canada workers at Toronto's international airport. She also addressed the Human Rights Committee of the Canadian Auto Workers Local 1967 at McDonnell Douglas, where seven members endorsed the campaign and more than \$100 was contributed.

On May 26 Kaku participated in a march of 300 to protest the cop shooting of Marlon Neal. It was the latest in a series of cop shootings and murders of Blacks in Toronto in recent years. The protest was organized by the Black Action Defence Committee.

Dudley Laws, a BADC leader, was one of the speakers who joined Kaku at a rally demanding justice

for Mark Curtis the following afternoon. More than 80 people attended.

Mark Curtis' "struggle is our struggle," Arturo Valencia, representative in Canada of the Salvadoran union federation FENASTRAS, told the rally. Other speakers included Ruth Morris, a prominent prisoners' rights advocate; Zaheer Bhatty of the African National Congress (ANC); Michel Prairie, editor of the French-language magazine *Lutte ouvrière* and a leader of the Communist League; and Barry Weisleder, of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

In Vancouver, Kaku visited city councillor Harry Rankin and discussed Curtis' fight with several union members and officials. She also spent a day in Victoria, British Columbia's capital, where she met Emery Barnes, a New Democratic Party member of the provincial legislature, who endorsed Curtis' defense campaign.

A rally of 85 was held on June 1

to hear Kaku and a panel of supporters. Norah Hutchinson, an NDP member and prominent prochoice activist, explained that this case "is not about rape. This is why feminist activists support this campaign."

Also speaking were Mike Barker, a member of the provincial executive of the Hospital Employees Union; Pam Frache, past president of the British Columbia Federation of Students; Frances MacQueen, a member of Amnesty International; George Lai of the ANC; Claire Culhane of the Prisoners Rights Group; and Katy LeRougetel, a member of the International Association of Machinists and a local supporter of the defense campaign.

Altogether, more than \$7,000 was raised during Kaku's tour across Canada, surpassing the original goal of \$5,000.

Nancy Walker from Vancouver, British Columbia, contributed to this week's column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

If you have news or reports on activities in support of Mark Curtis from your city or country, please send them to the *Militant*.

Kate Kaku visited Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver on the last leg

Ottawa and District Labour Council; and several staff workers of the Labour Council. All are endorsers of Curtis' defense campaign.

Kaku reviewed Curtis' case with staff workers at the national offices of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and held discussions with T.N. Stol, national vice-president of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers and Ovide Mercier, a leader of

scription of her attacker that did not match his. "Moreover, no evidence of semen or other physical evidence of sexual contact was collected from" the woman, the brief states. "Traces of dirt, debris, and dog hair consistent with that found" on the woman's clothing were not found on Curtis, even though the woman said that "she and her alleged assailant wrestled around on the dirty front porch" of her home.

Right to confront one's accuser

The testimony of Des Moines Officer Joseph Gonzalez, who said he caught Curtis at the alleged scene of the rape with his pants down, was "an important component" in the conviction, Curtis' appeal points out. Rulings by trial judge Harry Perkins, however, successfully barred information related to Gonzalez' credibility and prevented cross-examination of Gonzalez about his history of lying. This violated Curtis' constitutional rights and Iowa state law, thus constituting grounds for a new trial, the brief explains.

Curtis' attorneys had attempted to enter evidence at the trial that showed Gonzalez had lied in a previous arrest report and had been disciplined by the police chief with suspension from the police force.

The judge also refused to open Gonzalez' personnel file for Curtis' defense.

The attorney general, however, argues in the state's brief that officer Gonzalez was "never charged with a crime as a result of the incident, that nothing similar had happened regarding this case, and that the incident arose when the officer was trying to protect a confidential informant" and there-

fore made a "misstatement."

"On cross-examination of Mr. Curtis, the State inquired into an incident which the State believed related to his truthfulness," Curtis' brief states. "Specifically, the State inquired into an incident in which Mr. Curtis allegedly 'misrepresented' his employment history to a prospective employer and further inferred that he had been fired for lying to this employer. In essence this is exactly the type of truth and veracity evidence which the defense was foreclosed from presenting."

Evidence of institutional bias

Curtis' history of political activism and defense of workers' rights, particularly his response to the March 1988 immigration raid at his plant, are outlined in the brief. It was this history that Curtis' attorneys assert stacked the cops and justice system against him.

"Mr. Curtis submits the jury should have been permitted to consider the evidence of institutional bias," his attorney argues. Such evidence included his beating by the cops who called him a "Mexican-lover" and "colored-lover." Pretrial rulings by Judge Perkins barred this information from coming before the jury. Perkins also excluded other evidence, including FBI surveillance of Curtis as a leader of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and of the Socialist Workers Party.

"The Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Federal Constitution require the admission of relevant evidence," Curtis' brief states. Denial of "the opportunity to provide information relevant to his defense by virtue of the adverse ruling by the Trial Court" entitles him to a new trial.

The attorney general dismisses Curtis' claim, saying he "overemphasized the impact of his union activities" and "was not a union official," an argument the prosecutor attempted to advance at the trial. But in his trial testimony Curtis explained this and provided examples of his union and political activities.

"The main concern I have is to get the membership, the rank and file, active in the union," Curtis testified. "It's the people who work in the plant. That's what the union is really all about, and the more active they are and the more participation they have is what makes all the difference whether it's a good union or not."

Asked whether he held an elected union position, Curtis replied, "Well, it's just like I said before, the involvement and activity of the membership is what makes the union strong or weak, and I'm an active rank-and-file member."

Beating by cops

The state's brief also claims that Curtis' beating by police had no relationship to his arrest and therefore was irrelevant at the trial. It also asserts, "There was no evidence to indicate that Curtis was a recent target of FBI surveillance" (emphasis in original).

The third issue favoring a new trial presented in Curtis' brief is Judge Perkins' failure to properly instruct the jury that his alibi

could be grounds for acquittal. At the trial a coworker, Brian Willey, gave undisputed testimony that Curtis was with him and others at Los Compadres bar and restaurant from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., during the time the woman claimed she was assaulted.

"This argument is based on the victim's deposition testimony that she thought that the crime occurred at 7:30 p.m.," the attorney general replies (emphasis in original). "At trial, however, the victim and others established that the crime occurred at about 8:45 p.m.," minutes prior to Curtis' arrest.

"This statement is false," John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, said in an interview. "At the trial the woman insisted in her testimony that she knew the time of the attack because it happened five minutes after her favorite television program came on the air." Television network program logs verify the show, *Video Soul*, aired at 8:00 p.m.

Jury irregularities

Finally, "in addition to the errors which occurred in Mr. Curtis' case from the beginning, several irregular circumstances occurred which involved the jury," Curtis' brief points out. Before jury deliberations began, one juror asked to be excused because he was familiar with the Los Compadres lounge and with people who had been there and said he "could not be fair to either side." The prosecutor supported his removal from the jury, asserting that he had "violated" his oath as a juror. The judge agreed and excused the man.

In another incident a juror was seen during a break in the trial with the family of the woman Curtis had been charged with assaulting. Judge Perkins, however, refused to conduct an investigation.

"It is incomprehensible how the Trial Court justified the dismissal of Juror Garcia based solely upon his 'acquaintance' with peripheral locations mentioned during testimony," Curtis' brief says, "as contrasted with the cavalier attitude with respect to the possible contact between a juror and the family of the alleged victim."

Another juror submitted an affidavit following the trial stating that she remained convinced of Curtis' innocence and had not known that if she stuck to her views, the judge would have been forced to declare a mistrial.

The attorney general dismissed these irregularities and argued that the state presented "an especially strong case" to warrant the guilty verdict.

About 5 percent of all cases appealed to the Iowa Supreme Court are accepted by the court for review, Assistant Attorney General Ryan said in an interview. Supreme Court clerks thought the number was closer to 10 percent. "Curtis has a very strong case that shows his rights under the U.S. Constitution and Iowa law have been violated," said Studer. "It merits review by the court and a finding that overturns his conviction. We are ready to take Mark's fight to federal court, if the Supreme Court turns down his appeal. We aim to deepen the international defense effort on his behalf until justice is finally won and Mark is free."

Judge upholds Curtis conviction

Continued from front page

of damages," he said. The jury in the lawsuit will now be prevented from making a judgment on Curtis' innocence.

A large monetary judgment against Curtis could result in a life-long court harassment campaign, including garnisheeing his wages, to collect the debt from him and his wife Kate Kaku. Curtis was a packinghouse worker until he was arrested in 1988, as was Kaku until she was laid off a few months ago.

"This is a blow to Mark's fight for vindication and for justice," said John Studer, coordinator of the Des Moines-based Mark Curtis Defense Committee. "Judge Gamble's decision deepens the injustice against Mark and upholds his frame-up at the hands of the

Des Moines cops. No justice can therefore be expected to come about from the July 9 trial.

"The judge's ruling assumes that Mark's conviction is a settled question, but it is not," Studer explained. "We intend to fight to reverse that conviction and will take the case to federal courts, if necessary."

"Just as employers in a strike battle use economic pressures to break workers' determination to fight," he said, "this lawsuit is being used to attempt to break Mark and Kate, who has been his most outspoken defender. But those who want to keep Mark behind bars will not succeed."

"We call on all of Mark's supporters around the world to answer this blow by redoubling efforts on all fronts to win international public opinion to Mark's cause," Studer said. "It is in that arena that Mark is winning. Thousands, from all walks of life, have rallied to his side and are making it possible to step up our campaign to bring his fight for justice before the United Nations.

"It is by bringing this type of pressure on the authorities in Iowa that we will advance Mark's fight for justice and keep the so-called justice system from breaking his and Kate's spirit," Studer said.



Curtis defense effort wins new backing for fight against cop, court frame-up

Mandela visit spurs interest in case

BY ANNA SCHELL

NEW YORK — During Nelson Mandela's visit here, 164 people signed up to support Mark Curtis' fight for justice.

On June 20 hundreds of thousands turned out to honor Mandela at a ticker-tape parade in Manhattan. Curtis supporters had a large information table there. Signs at the table read "Release all political prisoners" and "Free Mark Curtis."

People coming to the parade to see Mandela stopped by the Curtis table and asked, "Who is Mark Curtis?" Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee encouraged people to read the literature about Curtis' frame-up, his beating by Des Moines police, and about his fight to remain politically active in prison.

Several people commented that the cop beating of Curtis reminded them of the police in apartheid South Africa. A transit worker asked for several copies of defense committee literature so he could pass them along to other members of his union local.

Peltier supporters

Two supporters of Leonard Peltier, a Native American frame-up victim, endorsed the Curtis defense effort. They participated in the welcome for Mandela with a sign about Peltier's case.

As Nelson and Winnie Mandela passed by, those gathered at the table left hoping to get a closer look at Mandela. People came back to the table afterward. "Keep up the good work," said one woman who made a financial contribution to the committee. A new endorser took literature and vowed to contact Amnesty International about Curtis' defense campaign.

Supporters also attended a rally in Harlem for Mandela. Hundreds were interested in finding out more about Curtis, and 34 signed up to support him. "Look, you don't have to convince me that this can happen in the USA. We have our own form of apartheid here," one new endorser said.

A flier announcing the showing of *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*, a video documentary by Hollywood director Nick Castle, was distributed from the table. A total of \$141 was contributed to Curtis' defense campaign.

Denmark tour wins support in unionist's fight for justice

BY DENNY FITZPATRICK

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Kate Kaku finished a successful week here June 22, winning important new support for Mark Curtis' fight for justice. She is a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and is Curtis' wife.

Kaku participated in a Conference on Human Development sponsored by non-governmental organizations in Denmark and other countries. The meeting, which focused on human rights, ran parallel to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, a meeting of representatives from the governments of 35 countries.

The CSCE is a product of the Helsinki "process," an agreement reached in 1975 to foster economic and technological cooperation between East and West Europe, to increase contact between citizens of East and West, and to foster recognition of human rights.

On June 18 Kaku spoke at a news confer-



Militant/Samad Irvani

Supporters of Mark Curtis defense at literature table in downtown Manhattan during Nelson Mandela's ticker-tape parade.

ence hosted by the meeting's International Press Center. It was attended by TASS, the Soviet Union's press agency; the Danish news service; *Politiken*, one of the largest Danish dailies; *Günes*, a daily in Turkey; and by a local Copenhagen television station that plans to air the video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*, as well as an interview with Kaku. The video documentary was produced by Hollywood director Nick Castle.

Politiken featured an article about Kaku's visit and Curtis' frame-up. Interviews with her also appeared in *Det Fri Aktuelt*, a trade union daily with a circulation of more than 70,000; *Uge Maga Sinet Søndag*, a weekly Danish magazine for women; and *Land o Folk*, the Communist Party's daily.

Kaku also spoke at a June 21 workshop scheduled by the conference's steering committee. It was called "Mark Curtis — a Human Rights Case in the United States." Forty people participated in the workshop, including a number of young people.

During her visit here Kaku also met with a number of prominent figures, including Ulla Sandbæk, a Lutheran minister and member of the European Parliament. Sandbæk is planning to organize a delegation of parliamentarians to go to Iowa to investigate Curtis' frame-up and visit Curtis in prison. She is a new endorser of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Hardy Hansen met with Kaku. He is the national chairman of the Danish trade union for semiskilled workers. The union has more than 350,000 members and is the largest in Denmark. It has already featured a page-long article in its magazine on Curtis' case. Of the union's 350 locals, 40 have also made financial contributions to the Curtis defense campaign. Hansen will be visiting the United States in late September and hopes to visit the offices of the Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, Iowa.

Kaku had discussions with Harry Holt Jochumsen, the chair of the international department of the Danish food workers'

union. He is also the chair of the packing-house section of the union. Jochumsen plans to introduce Curtis' case to the national executive board of the food workers' union and to the union's national meeting of shop stewards.

Kaku also sought support among nongovernmental organizations for the campaign to bring Curtis' fight before the United Nations. Søren Borstrøm, a member of the Danish delegation and a representative of the Danish Youth Council, pledged to raise the International Youth Appeal for Justice for Mark Curtis with his organization. Uffe Geertsen, a member of the steering committee of the Danish Association for International Cooperation, and representatives of the Soviet and Swiss delegations also met with Kaku.



Militant/Yvonne Hayes
Kate Kaku, a leader of the international campaign to win justice for Mark Curtis.

Detroit rally hears of harassment suit

BY ROBBIE SINCLAIR-SMITH

DETROIT — On June 23 a rally in defense of Mark Curtis was held at the First Unitarian Church here. Curtis, a unionist and political activist, is currently serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa state prison.

John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee from Des Moines, Iowa, was the featured speaker. The victimization of Mark Curtis by Des Moines cops took place in the context of a drive by employers throughout the meat-packing industry to weaken unions, lower wages and job-safety standards, and speed up production in order to maximize profits, Studer said.

Although convicted on trumped-up charges of rape and burglary, "Mark's real 'crime' was defending his Mexican and Salvadoran coworkers," Studer said. Curtis worked at the Swift meat-packing company in Des Moines. By imprisoning him, the bosses and police hoped to isolate and drive Curtis out of politics, but this has not happened, the defense committee coordinator explained.

Despite limitations imposed by prison, Curtis continues to discuss politics and introduce fellow inmates to the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Pathfinder* books and pamphlets, Studer said.

He pointed to the 8,000 worldwide endorsers won to Curtis' fight and described the successful seven-country European speaking

tour of Kate Kaku, a leader of the defense committee and Curtis' wife. He reported that progress has been made in efforts to bring the unionist's case before the United Nations. "Mark's case," Studer said, "is seen more and more around the world as a major political case. This kind of pressure is essential to win Mark's vindication."

The latest challenge to Curtis' fight for justice is a lawsuit against him by Keith and Denise Morris, the parents of the woman he was accused of assaulting. The trial in the suit, which is aimed at getting substantial financial damages from Curtis, is set to begin July 9. This is a serious threat to both Curtis and his wife, Studer said. It is an attempt to put "permanent, life-long pressure on Mark and Kate to try to get them out of politics" and to drop their fight.

Studer concluded by calling on supporters to answer this threat by stepping up their activity and fund-raising for Curtis' defense campaign.

Frame-ups happen more often than people realize, Nathan Head of the United Auto Workers Civil Rights Department told the rally. The unionist urged everyone to continue to spread the truth about Curtis and other frame-up victims.

Kgati Sathekge, a representative of the African National Congress' Youth Section, stressed the need for continued international solidarity with Curtis. He pointed out that many South Africans are all too familiar with the use of frame-up tactics to silence fighters. "Mark Curtis' fight is our fight," the activist concluded, "and we fully support him."

Other speakers included Sally Bier, president of UAW Local 2500; Lea Sherman, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union; and Linda Little, a member of the United Steelworkers of America in Toronto. Almost \$1,000 was contributed or pledged to the defense effort in a collection at the rally. Fifty people attended the event.

How to write Mark Curtis

Address letters to Mark Curtis #805338, Box 316 JBC Dorm, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Sender's full name and address must be in upper left of envelope. Sign name in full at end of letter. Greeting cards and photos less than 8½ x 11 inches are permitted.

DES MOINES

Rally to Defend Mark Curtis!

- Protest lawsuit to harass and inflict financial hardship on Curtis and his wife Kate Kaku. The trial in this lawsuit begins July 9.
- Support international campaign to get Curtis' fight for justice before the United Nations.
- Defend Curtis' right to be politically active in prison.

Hear: Kate Kaku

A leader of Mark Curtis Defense Committee, just returned from Denmark where she attended a conference on human rights.

Sat., July 7, 7:30 p.m.

Park Inn, 1050 6th Ave., top floor

Donation \$5

Sponsor: Mark Curtis Defense Committee

Atlanta Eastern strikers beat frame-up attempt

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists (IAM) members struck Eastern Airlines March 4, 1989, in an effort to

world. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.



SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

As of the *Militant's* closing news date, Wednesday, June 27, the strike was in its 481st day.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working people in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, Canada, Bermuda, Sweden, New Zealand, France, and elsewhere in the

Three members of the Machinists union on strike against Eastern in Atlanta — Bobby Taylor, general chairman of IAM District 100, and George Cox, Jr. and Lawrence Roundtree of Local 1690 — beat back frame-up charges in court on June 5.

Taylor, Cox, and Roundtree had been charged with "using fighting words" and with simple assault on Sept. 16, 1989.

When the trial opened, Judge John Carbo announced that those attending the trial would not be allowed to wear anything that communicated any political ideas having a bearing on the case. Strike supporters had to remove their "No Lorenzo" buttons and stickers. A.W. Jackson, a striker who came to show support, said, "That judge just took away my right of free speech!"

At the trial, the defendants explained that John Lambert, regional security manager for Eastern Airlines, tried to provoke Taylor. While in the Atlanta airport on September 16, Lambert challenged Taylor to try to hit him, saying Taylor did not have the picket line to protect him.

Failing to provoke Taylor, Lambert turned on Cox, taunting him with quotes from his personnel file. Cox had been fired two times by Eastern. Each time he won his job back with the union's help. Lambert threatened to get Cox fired from his

current job.

The simple assault charge was based solely on Lambert's assertions. During his testimony, Lambert claimed he was surrounded by six strikers near the baggage claim area. Hundreds of passengers were in the area at the time. He said he thought he was going to get hit — not that anyone hit him, or even tried to hit him.

Lambert testified that, in his opinion, the word "scab" was a provocation. He stated that the strikers who surrounded him kept shouting "scab."

Before coming to work for Eastern, Lambert was with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and was a military police officer before that.

The Machinists' attorney explained Lambert's goal was to collect indictments that could serve as the basis for a sweeping injunction against Eastern pickets in Atlanta.

When all of the testimony was

completed, the simple assault charge was dropped and the strikers were allowed to enter a plea of no contest to the charge of using fighting words. They received suspended fines of \$100 each. The court acknowledged that using the word "scab" was not obscene and abusive.

While all three strikers acknowledged the outcome of the trial was a victory, the three were bitter that they had been dragged into court and forced to spend precious time there.

When Taylor, Cox, and Roundtree went into court they decided not to pursue the option of a jury trial, hoping to win a not guilty verdict on the fighting words charge. As Roundtree put it, "Under this system, the courts work in the interest of the people with money. They're a stacked deck."

Miesha Patterson and Liz Ziers from Atlanta contributed to this column.

N. Zealand clothes workers fight plant shutdown

BY MALCOLM STUART

GREYMOUTH, New Zealand — It was the moment every worker dreads. All the workers were gathered into the office. A company official in a suit and tie took a prepared statement out of his briefcase and proceeded to announce that the factory was closing — immediately.

That was the scene in a clothing factory of 83 workers here on the West Coast of the South Island of New Zealand on April 6. The company, Lane Walker Rudkin, is a big clothing manufacturer based in Christchurch and owned by one of the country's largest companies, Brierly Investments, a notorious job-slayer.

"You'll be finished as of three o'clock but you might as well go now," the workers were told. "Pick up your pay next Wednesday." The shutdown happened so quickly that a group of longtime workers at the plant who happened to be away at a funeral came back to find the factory closed.

'We'd fold up and go like lambs'

However, it was not going to be that easy for the company. "They thought we'd fold up and go like lambs," said Judy Tainui, a picket leader and member of the Clothing Workers Union. "But we didn't."

Rather than go meekly, the workers decided to stay in the plant until the union

secretary drove over the mountain range from Christchurch (a three and a half hour drive). They remained even though the bosses proceeded to board up the factory in preparation for the shutdown.

Word of the closure spread fast around the small town, and support for the workers began to grow quickly. A team of softball players bought them fish and chips. A worker donated a caravan (house trailer).

Workers left the plant after staying a day and began picketing the plant. Picket signs were painted. And for the next six weeks the workers organized a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week rotating picket involving 80 of the 83 workers.

The local police refused to evict the workers or to cross the picket line. Collections were taken up at other work sites to pay for food. Two petitions were launched to urge the company not to close the plant. Nearly half the town signed up. A march of a thousand was led through the main street by a kilted bagpiper demanding that the plant remain open.

"There was not talk of money the day of the closure," said Tainui. "We were just told to go." The amount of severance pay is a big issue in places like Greymouth. Wages are low, and full-time jobs are not easy to find, especially for women.

"Everyone's been hit so many times here with redundancies [layoffs]," explained Tainui. Union officials estimate that the closure will take the equivalent of US\$700,000 a year out of the town's economy in wages. This will lead to further redundancies, explained one union official.

After fruitless efforts to keep the factory open, Tainui and Diane Phelan, another union member, reached out for support from their fellow workers and union members at Lane Walker Rudkin's Christchurch factories. The workers there decided to implement a ban on overtime to aid their fellow workers from Greymouth and to win a severance-pay plan for all the company's 2,000 employees. It was the first time the more than seven different unions covering the company's operations had ever joined together in a fight.

The company's original offer of six weeks' pay for the first year of service and two weeks' pay for the every year after that would have given a worker with two years service a miserly \$2,000 (US\$1,200).

After only two days' overtime ban, the company upped its offer to eight weeks' pay for the first year of service and two weeks' pay for every year after that, an offer the workers accepted.

'I support the boycott of Greyhound'

BY NANCY BROWN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nearly 1,000 Greyhound strikers and their supporters marched from the Greyhound bus terminal to the Amtrak station here, on June 19. The march and rally were sponsored by the Rainbow Coalition and the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), which has been on strike against Greyhound since March 2.

Strikers and their supporters came in vans and buses from cities throughout the eastern United States including Detroit, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, and Roanoke, Virginia. They were joined in Washington by contingents of Teamsters, teachers, city transit workers, railroad workers, communications workers, and Machinists who are on strike against Eastern Airlines.

The march was led by Jesse Jackson of the Rainbow Coalition and Rosa Parks. Parks is well known for her refusal to move to the back of a segregated city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. Her action sparked the Montgomery bus boycott, a major battle in the civil rights movement.

Parks traveled to Washington from Detroit, where she now lives. "As long as Greyhound can operate, it will keep many people from earning a decent living," she told the crowd. "I am firmly in support of the boycott of Greyhound as long as necessary."

Strikers report ridership is down and Greyhound posted losses of \$55.8 million in the first quarter of this year. On June 4 company chairman Fred Currey opened bankruptcy proceedings for the bus line.

ATU International President James LaSalla pledged that the strike and boycott would continue. "Let this day bring a message that the strike is not over and will not be over until all our members are back at work."

BY MARK FRIEDMAN

DETROIT — Organized by the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO, more than 300 unionists rallied June 14 to support striking Greyhound drivers. There are about 100 strikers here, members of ATU Local 1303. Nearly fifty union locals participated in making the rally

and dinner a success — raising \$9,000 for the strike fund.

Detroit City Council President Maryann Mahaffey told the crowd outside the Greyhound terminal, "We are here to protest union busting." She read from a resolution passed May 2 by the Detroit City Council that backed the strikers and encouraged citizens to boycott the bus company until a new contract is negotiated in good faith.

Teamsters Union leader Mark Gaffney addressed the rally, saying that the solidarity with the ATU "reminds me of the Eastern strikers — and we are going to win that one and this one."

"We're in a struggle to protect and preserve the soul of the trade union movement in this country. We're going to take up the fight against the Lorenzos and Curreys," said 48-year member of the ATU Bill Marshall to cheers from the crowd. Frank Lorenzo was

head of Eastern Airlines until his removal from the post in April.

"Currey spends \$60 million on security and could have settled the whole three-year contract with that money," said Marshall. "That lets us know he's out to break the union." Marshall reported over 60 cases of violence by scabs against pickets.

Drivers pointed out that they have suffered a 25 percent pay cut since 1983 under the Currey regime; adjusted for inflation, this represents a 43 percent reduction in purchasing power.

Eastern striker and member of the International Association of Machinists, Dave Elster addressed the unionists. "On the 477th day of the strike 100 percent of the Machinists in this area are union and have not crossed the line," he said. "Currey is right up there with Lorenzo — Lorenzo knows we are tough and Currey is learning fast also."

Yakima Valley workers strike apple grower

BY ARTURO TREVINO AND MATT HERRESHOFF

BENTON CITY, Wash. — "We were not even making the minimum wage," said Luis Cerón. He is one of 65 farm workers on strike at Valley View Orchards in this town in the Yakima Valley. He and other workers explained that they were making 90 cents a tree for thinning apples and were averaging \$3.00 an hour.

Cerón pointed to other conditions that sparked the strike. "There were unhealthy conditions," he said, with no clean bathrooms or drinking water. "And many times the foremen would curse us."

The walkout began on June 20, said Angie Martínez Cerón, a strike leader, when workers in the orchard "started yelling 'Strike!'" We went around and told everyone that if you want to make a strike, we all have to stick together.

"We all went down to talk to the boss," Martínez continued. "He offered us 20 cents more a tree. When we told him that was not

enough, he told us to get off his property if we didn't accept his offer." All but five workers walked out.

The strikers called on the United Farm Workers of Washington State (UFWWS) to help lead the walkout. None of them were members of the union. But, from other strikes and struggles "the UFWWS is very well known to farm workers in the Yakima Valley," Cerón said.

The union responded, sending members to help organize the picket line, and to publicize the strike and win support from the many thousands of farm workers in this center of agribusiness.

So far, the picket line has been very effective. The grower has recruited only seven workers to scab. And the strike has begun to win solid support from other workers. Many thousands of people drive past the picket line every day, which is next to Interstate 82, the main highway in the Yakima Valley. Often, drivers honk to show support. Some have stopped to join the pickets, or donate food

and money for the strikers.

"The general manager, like all other growers struck during the past three and half years, always claims that the union picks the target for convenience and publicity, this time because the farm happens to be along Interstate 82," said Tomás Villanueva, president of the UFWWS. "To date agribusiness fails to recognize that it is the industry — with their low wages, mistreatment, and total disregard for the rights of workers — that provokes labor disputes."

Villanueva and other union leaders believe that these conditions may provoke more strikes on other farms in the Yakima Valley this year. Striker Martínez explained, "We are fighting for better pay and conditions, not just here but everywhere else, because there are other farms in the Yakima Valley where they treat people this way."

Arturo Treviño is the Second Vice-president of the United Farm Workers of Washington State.

Auto workers in Sweden expose company at trial

BY BIRGITTA ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — In the biggest labor court trial ever, some 300 union auto workers, sued by their employer Saab-Scania, packed a courtroom here for two days, testifying on their own behalf, cheering on their union's lawyer, and pointing the finger at their accusers.

Throughout the May 30-31 hearings members of the Metal Workers Union, taken to court for striking "illegally," charged Saab-Scania with plant safety violations, callous disregard for employees, and providing poor work conditions. Before and after the court proceedings the unionists held marches and demonstrations and passed out flyers explaining their cases to passers-by.

Auto workers at the big Saab-Scania truck plant in Södertälje, just south of Stockholm, have fought since the end of last year for a wage increase needed to keep up with rising inflation. They have held a series of strike actions and big union meetings calling on the company to negotiate, and have sought to win solidarity from other unions.

Saab-Scania, one of the largest employers in the country, sued 982 of the unionists for their actions. In Sweden, where labor negotiations are highly centralized, the legal possibilities for a local union to go out on strike are very limited. Individual workers who do can be sued, taken to the labor court, and fined.

A pretrial hearing originally slated for April 25 to listen to arguments by the workers was cancelled. This meant they had to present their grievances in writing.

The union members sent messages protesting the cancellation and demanding bigger facilities for the hearings. The labor court holds only 70 people although 982 were to be on trial.

Of the 5,300 workers at Saab-Scania, some 47 percent are foreign-born. Messages were sent in Spanish, English, Finnish, Norwegian, Danish, and indigenous African languages.

Demand for wage increase

On May 30 several hundred workers gathered outside the Saab-Scania headquarters in Södertälje. The unionists rented three Volvo-made buses, naming them "5.50" after their demand for a 5.50 kronor (US\$.90) an hour wage increase.

Radio and TV journalists followed the buses to the court hearings, which were moved from the labor court offices to the Kulturhuset in downtown Stockholm. The Saab-Scania workers got off the buses just short of their destination and marched the rest of the way, chanting, "Contract yes! Prosecution no!" and "We want 5.50!"

Shortly after the proceedings began, the union members walked out on an unscheduled break and held a rally nearby where they received solidarity greetings, flowers, and money from other unions.

The court proceedings continued after the rally. Workers booed the company lawyer and cheered as Dan Holke, the union lawyer, explained why the strikes at Saab-Scania took place. No one can accuse the workers at Saab-Scania of being notorious strikers, he argued, since there has not been a strike there since 1964.

Holke pointed out that job-related injuries are up; one-quarter of the workers were afflicted with some kind of nerve or limb damage in 1989 due to repetitive motion and other causes; on-the-job accidents rose 25 percent between 1985 and 1989; and overtime has increased.

Several workers took the floor during the proceedings.

'Come work where I work!'

Dick Sandström described his job painting pieces for the chassis in a box where the temperature climbs very high. "We have to wear an overall and another plastic one on top of that. If we take a break because of the heat, the foremen tell us we're lazy." Pointing



Militant/Dag Tirsén

Several hundred workers marched through downtown Stockholm on way to trial May 30. They chanted, "Contract yes! Prosecution no!"

to the company representatives he said, "Those men should come and work where I work!"

Saab-Scania worker Irja Vuohisalo, a truck driver for 16 years, described how the ache in her neck and shoulders became worse and worse and the company refused to assign her to a different job. "In the end I could no longer raise my hand," she said.

Company defender Anders Sandgren presented Saab-Scania's case, which centered on an attempt to blame the union and individual

workers for the strike actions. He concluded with a threat of a wage cut, which the company could impose, he said, the next time negotiations come up.

The labor court hearings, which got a lot of media coverage, ended after two days. The Saab-Scania workers considered the proceedings to be a victory for their side. The decisions will be handed down July 18.

Birgitta Isacsson works at the Scania plant in Södertälje and is a member of the Metal Workers Union.

Strike makes British Airways back off forced 12-hour shifts at Heathrow

BY JOYCE FAIRCHILD AND JO HAMMOND

LONDON — After beating back management attempts to impose new working conditions, 7,000 British Airways aircraft maintenance engineering staff at Heathrow Air-

port voted June 11 to end their 18-day strike.

On May 25 BA management imposed a new 12-hour shift on workers at the terminal maintenance fleet, telling them if they were not prepared to work the 12 hours starting that morning, they should go home. In re-

sponse to this the unions representing the workers called a meeting of all BA maintenance staff at Heathrow, where the workers voted overwhelmingly to go on strike.

Joe Fenton, secretary of the Engineering and Maintenance Trades Union side of the negotiating committee, explained that the union was opposed to the imposition of the new hours. The 12-hour shifts would cause greater stress and fatigue, making working conditions more unsafe. BA maintenance workers already work shift patterns that disrupt their social and family life.

Many workers fear the effects on aircraft safety standards if they are forced to work 12-hour shifts. This is especially true for terminal fleet workers who — working under tremendous pressure — undertake the last-minute repairs on the aircraft before takeoff.

The change in shift patterns would also have meant reduced holidays, which are calculated in hours. A worker with more than 10 years service would have found their holidays reduced from 25 to 19 days.

On June 6, at the same time as BA was attempting to attack conditions for aircraft maintenance engineers, the airline announced that BA Chairman Lord King will be getting a pay increase of £84,000 (US\$143,650) per year.

On June 8 management met with the main unions involved: the Transport and General Workers Union, Amalgamated Engineering Union, MSF — a union representing draftsmen, technicians, and lower management — and Electrical Engineering and Plumbing Trades Union.

After four days of discussions with the unions on the new proposal BA was forced to back down on the imposition of the new shift pattern. It was agreed that the airline can take volunteers for 12-hour shifts in the technical area. But 12-hour shifts are not to be considered in any other department for 6 months. The 12-hour working day has already been introduced at Gatwick Airport.

"We considered we had a successful outcome to the dispute as we set out to remove the imposition by management of the new working conditions," Fenton pointed out. He attributed the success of the dispute to united action by all workers across four panels: the craft, noncraft, supervisory, and clerical sections.

Golf-wear garment workers take their strike to U.S. Open

BY ERIC MATHEIS

MEDINAH, Ill. — Gathered outside the United States Open golf tournament here June 17, more than 70 people rallied in support of Los Angeles garment workers on strike at La Mode du Golf golf wear manufacturer.

The spirited group was largely made up of trade unionists, including three La Mode strikers from Los Angeles — members of the

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Other demonstrators were members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union, United Farm Workers, and United Steelworkers of America.

Some 175 members of the ILGWU have been striking La Mode for union recognition since July 17, 1989. Before the strike the company had suspended union organizers and fired, interrogated, and threatened workers. The La Mode strikers have solidarized with the Eastern Airlines and Greyhound bus lines strikers in Los Angeles, as well as walked the picket lines with striking hotel and restaurant and furniture workers.

The United States Golf Association, sponsor of the U.S. Open and PGA Tour, is the largest remaining client of La Mode. In March ILGWU Local 44 asked the USGA to discontinue buying from the struck golf-wear manufacturer. The USGA continued to stock La Mode wear in its pro shops and catalogs, however.

The strikers responded by picketing the USGA's Bob Hope tournament in Palm Springs, California, in May. "If the USGA can't give us proof that they're not buying La Mode, we're going to keep following the PGA tournament," said La Mode striker Valdemar Zamora.

Here outside the golf course in Medinah, a suburb west of Chicago, the striking garment workers and supporters passed out leaflets and carried signs publicizing their fight. Their chants of "Don't buy La Mode!" and "Don't wear scabwear!" could be heard by the players. "We're not going to let them play their game in peace until they support workers rights," said one ILGWU activist.

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PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE
BY KARL MARX

Mandela in Harlem condemns 'c'

The following is the June 21 speech given by Nelson Mandela to a crowd of 100,000 assembled at 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard, New York City. Transcription is by the *Militant*.

Chairman, distinguished guests:

We are very happy to be here this evening and it gives me immense pleasure to greet all of you on behalf of the leaders and members of the African National Congress and the Mass Democratic Movement.

It is with great joy that I speak to you this evening. My only regret is that I am not able to embrace each and every one of you.

Whilst my comrades and I were in prison we followed closely your own struggle against the injustices of racist discrimination and economic inequality. We were and are aware of the resistance of the people of Harlem and continue to be inspired by your indomitable fighting spirit.

I am able to speak to you because of the mass resistance of our people and the unceasing solidarity of millions throughout the world. It is you, the working people of Harlem, that helped to make it happen. It is you, the clergy and believers, who helped to make it happen. It is you, the professionals and intellectuals, that helped to make it happen. It is you, the struggling women, who helped to make it happen.

The kinship that the ANC feels for the people of Harlem goes deeper than skin color. It is the kinship of our shared historical experience and the kinship of the solidarity of the victims of blind prejudice and hatred. To our people, Harlem symbolizes the strength and beauty in resistance, and you have taught us that out of resistance to injustice comes renaissance, renewal, and rebirth.

Inspired by freedom fighters

From the beginning of this century, we have been inspired by great antiracist freedom fighters like W.E.B. DuBois, Sojourner Truth, Paul Robeson, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Marcus Garvey, Fannie Lou Hamer, Adam Clayton Powell, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman, and many others. [Applause]

At the turning of this century, W.E.B. DuBois, with great foresight, predicted that "the problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line." As we enter the last decade of the 20th century, it is intolerable and unacceptable that the cancer of racism is still eating away at the fabric of societies in different parts of our planet.

It remains one of the most important global issues confronting all humanity, Black and white. It is a struggle that must involve people of all walks of life. It is a struggle that must involve people of different colors, religions, and creeds.

All of us, descendants of Africa, know only too well that racism dehumanizes the victims and dehumanizes its perpetrators. Racism, we must emphasize, pollutes the atmosphere of human relations and poisons the minds of the backward, the bigoted, and the prejudiced.

On my way from the airport through the streets of New York yesterday a slogan on the sweatshirt of a young woman moved me. It said, "Black by nature, proud by choice."

The oppressed people of South Africa — living in a country in which institutionalized racism permeates every pore of our lives and even in death, since we have segregated cemeteries — are acutely sensitive to pain and injuries suffered by people of color. It should therefore be clear that all antiracist fighters, wherever they may be, will always find a friend and ally in our people, in our movement — the ANC.

For us the struggle against racism has assumed the proportions of a crusade. We all of us, Black and white, should spare no effort in our struggle against all forms and manifestations of racism wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head.

The revolt of our people continues in the land of apartheid. Our struggle is the struggle to erase the color line that all too often determines who is rich and who is poor; that all too often decides who lives in luxury and lives in squalor; that all too often determines

who shall get food, clothing, and health care; and that all too often decides who will live and who will die.

We continue to live in a country enslaved by apartheid. The vote, the land, economic wealth, and power remain a monopoly of the white minority. The only monopoly Blacks have is the monopoly of ghettos, of deprived and suffering children, the monopoly of millions of unemployed, the monopoly of urban slums, rural starvation, low wages, and the bullets and clubs of too many trigger-happy police. [Applause].

Threshold of change

But, my dear brothers and sisters, comrades and friends, I am here to report to you that due to the enormous sacrifices of our people and the solidarity and support of people like you and the international community apartheid is nearing its end.

We are on the threshold of momentous changes. Last month, at the initiative of the ANC, we met with President de Klerk and his colleagues. It was not a meeting of master and servant. It was a meeting of equals. At that meeting we reached an agreement on removing those obstacles, harboring the creation of a climate conducive to negotiation.

We are confident that the agreement can be implemented in full as a matter of urgency. Equally, we are confident that you will con-

Mandela explains ANC support of liberation f

BY GREG McCARTAN

In interviews and press conferences since his arrival in the United States, Nelson Mandela has responded to a series of challenges to the African National Congress' solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Cuban revolution, Libya, and the Puerto Rican struggle against U.S. domination.

Prior to Mandela's arrival in the United States, some pro-Israeli organizations threatened to mount protests at events the ANC leader was to address. The Miami City Commission decided not to vote on a resolution welcoming Mandela to the city after objections by two Cuban-American commission members. Mandela is scheduled to visit Miami on June 28.

The *Wall Street Journal* attacked Mandela in an editorial headlined "Mr. Mandela's Friends." The editors complained Mandela "repeatedly praised Moammar Gadhafi, Fidel Castro, and Yasser Arafat." The *Journal* also objected to Mandela sharing a platform with four Puerto Rican nationalists who spent

25 years or more in prison for taking up arms against the colonial status Washington imposes on that island.

Supported our struggle to hilt'

"One of the mistakes which some political analysts make is to think that their enemies should be our enemies," the ANC leader said during Ted Koppel's June 21 "Town Meeting with Nelson Mandela" on ABC-TV.

"Our attitude towards any country is determined by the attitude of that country to our struggle. Yassir Arafat, Colonel Qaddafi, and Fidel Castro support our struggle to the hilt," the ANC leader continued. "There is no reason whatsoever why we should have any hesitation about hailing their commitment to human rights as they are being demanded in South Africa."

"Our attitude is based solely on the fact that they fully support the anti-apartheid struggle. They do not support it only in rhetoric. They are placing resources at our disposal, for us to win the struggle."

Expressing "profound disappointment"

with Mandela's statement, Henry Siegman, the executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said on the program that the response "suggests a certain degree of amorality."

Mandela recently met with Siegman and other leaders of Jewish organizations from the United States who had expressed concern over Mandela's support to the Palestinian cause.

Reiterating his statements at that meeting, the ANC leader said, "We identify with the PLO because, just like ourselves, they are fighting for the right of self-determination."

ANC policy, he said, recognizes the right of Israel to "exist within secure borders." This does not mean "that Israel has the right to retain the territories they conquered from the Arab world — like the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights, and the West Bank. We don't agree with that. Those territories should be returned to the Arab people."

Pressing the question on "Nightline" the same evening, Koppel told Mandela he would alienate "great many Cuban-Americans" and Jews.

Mandela responded, "Many Jews, members of the Jewish community [in South Africa], are in our struggle, and they have occupied very top positions. But that does not mean that the enemies of Israel are our enemies."

"Arafat," Mandela added, "is a comrade in arms, and we treat him as such."

On a TV news program with Charlayne Hunter-Gault the following day, Mandela was asked what steps are needed in the Middle East "to advance that peace process."

"The only solution of the problem of the Middle East," he said, "is one of peace, for the opponents to sit down and hammer out their differences and to try to effect a negotiated settlement. It is the only solution that is open to the PLO and the Israeli government, and I would urge them to do that."

In a June 22 speech to the United Nations Special Committee on Apartheid, Mandela extended the ANC's "warm greetings to all others who fight for their liberation and human rights, including the peoples of Palestine and the Western Sahara."

The UN meeting was attended by most of the General Assembly delegates, although the assembly was not in session. Mandela told the UN representatives, "We commend their struggles to you, convinced that we are all moved by the fact that freedom is indivisible, convinced that the denial of the rights of one diminishes the freedom of the other."

'Cuba first to support us'

Mandela told Hunter-Gault that after the ANC was banned in South Africa in 1960,

leaders of the organization sought assistance from several countries. "They came to the United States of America and asked for help," he said. "They did not get that help."

"They went to Cuba, and Cuba on the spot blessed support and actually gave it long before the West would do anything to assist us."

During the June 22 MacNeil/Lehrer television news program, the ANC leader explained, "Why would we now listen to the Western World, when they say we should have nothing to do with Cuba? It's just unreasonable. . . . Here is the country that was the first to assist us when the West, which had formidable resources, was actually supporting the government."

"Now you expect us to change our whole approach and to start condemning Cuba for what is supposed to be happening inside the country. No man of principle is going to do that."

The furor from circles opposed to the Cuban revolution stem from Mandela's recognition of Cuba's role in beating back the invasion of Angola by the apartheid regime.

In March Mandela attended the independence celebration of Namibia — a country long occupied by South Africa. He spoke then about the 1988 defeat of the South African invasion of Angola. He said that without the victory won by Angolan, Cuban and the Namibian troops of the South African People's Organization, "the South African army would still have been in Angola and it would have been difficult to obtain the liberation of Namibia."

In a speech in Angola in May, he said that in one thing Cuba "stands head and shoulder above most of the countries in the world: it is its love of human rights and freedom. Inspired by those basic needs, it rallied around Angola when she was attacked."

Condemns U.S. bombing of Libya

During a visit to Libya in May, Mandela toured the ruins of Libyan head of state Muammar el-Qaddafi's former residence. The building, and other sites in the country were bombed by the United States Air Force in April 1986. A daughter of Qaddafi's was killed in the bombing.

Condemning the raid, Mandela told Qaddafi, "Whatever the differences that exist between nations, between human beings, it is unacceptable for anyone to try an attempt on an opponent and his family."

He thanked the Libyan official for military training provided to ANC fighters.

The four Puerto Rican nationalist fighters — Lolita Lebrón, Oscar Collazo, Rafael Cancel Miranda, and Irving Flores — were



At Harlem rally speakers compared anti-apartheid struggle to struggle in the United States.

ncer of racism'

ue to support us in this fight. Let me say, with all sincerity, that we do doubt the integrity of President de Klerk and his colleagues. Equally, we welcome the yes to repeal certain racist legislation and state of emergency in the greater part of country. Yet until the agreement has been implemented in full and there is profound irreversible change international pressure must be intensified and sanctions maintained. Keep the pressure on apartheid! ants of "Keep the pressure on!"

It is regrettable that in South Africa there is a minority of a minority violently and openly opposed to a negotiated resolution of the conflict. Too many of them are openly armed. Too many of them are to be found in the police force. Too many of them are mobilized and organized into paramilitary formations. They have the capacity, and seem the will, to commit unspeakable acts.

Hing to fear from democracy

ut they will not deflect us from our own path. For our part, we understand and sensitive to the fears about the future of us of our white compatriots. The ANC is soundly committed and determined to do we can to demonstrate that they have nothing to fear from a nonracial, nonsexist democracy. That indeed, only in a nonracial,

nts, Cuba

roduced to a rally at which Mandela spoke in Harlem June 21.

Dennis Rivera, president of the Hospital and Health Care Employees union in New York, said, to a huge applause, he was "proud honored to present to you our national heroes."

The Puerto Rican independence fighters been called "assassins" by New York mayor David Dinkins the week before. Following a public outcry, Dinkins retreated, saying he could "identify with and appreciate their yearning for economic justice and political freedom."

Asked by a reporter about the dispute at the Puerto Rican nationalists, Mandela said: "We support the cause of anyone who is fighting for self-determination, and our cause is the same, no matter who it is. I would be honored to sit on the same platform as the four comrades whom you refer to."

nonsexist, united, and democratic South Africa will they be freed from the prison that is the apartheid system.

The ANC and the Mass Democratic Movement represent an unequalled diversity of cultures, languages, religion, tradition, and class. I am happy to report to you that there are increasing numbers of whites who not only realize that apartheid is unjust and a crime, but who are ready to be in the same trenches as their fellow Black sisters and brothers. [Applause].

As the struggle intensifies, the social base of the present government will be reduced, and more and more whites will join the ANC as equals, with equal duties, obligations, and responsibilities.

Unity in action

We are on the verge of victory. But the last mile of the freedom road could prove to be the most difficult and the most intractable. Thus our struggle cries out for organization, discipline, and unity. Struggle that does not strengthen organization can lead to a blind alley. Struggle without discipline can lead to anarchy. Struggle without unity enables the other side to pick us off one by one. [Applause].

We are, therefore, deeply involved in trying to bring about the unity in action of all those opposed to apartheid. Any individual, any group, any organization that seeks genuine unity in action will find a ready partner in the ANC.

We are fighting for a democratic South Africa. This means first and foremost, one person, one vote on a nonracial voters' roll. [Applause]. On this there can be no compromise.

For us, political power should be the basis for the economic empowerment of people. It is outrageous that in the richest country on our continent, with its vast economic resources, that millions should be deprived of the basic necessities of life. The gap between the haves and the have-nots, Black and white, is totally unacceptable. Any new democratic state must address this historic injustice as a matter of urgency. It also means that we are irrevocably committed to realizing a society in which the fruits of our people's labor shall be distributed equitably. That the striking imbalance between the wealth of the minority and the poverty of the majority have to be addressed.

To bring an end to this old unjust, inequitable social order, and bring into being a new one characterized by the notions of justice



UN photo 176005/P. Sudhakaran

African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela addresses United Nations June 22

and equity, requires that we address the questions of the enormous economic power wielded by and concentrated in the hands of a minority of a minority.

Intensify the struggle

Brothers and sisters, comrades and friends, victory is in sight. [Applause]. The light at the end of the tunnel is now beckoning. But we are not yet there. To reach the end of the tunnel requires that we intensify the struggle on all fronts. It requires that we make the necessary sacrifices. It requires that we remain unrelenting in pursuit of our goals.

The masses of the people of our country are ready for the final battle. Let me assure you they will not flinch from that last battle. It is their heroism, courage, and unquenchable fighting spirit which has earned them the respect and admiration of the international community. Our people symbolize the spirit of resistance and no surrender.

Let me also assure you that the ANC will never be found wanting. Let me assure you that the ANC will never rest until we have accomplished our goals. [Applause]. This is a pledge that I make on behalf of all the freedom fighters in the ANC.

Brothers and sisters, comrades and

friends, I am here to claim you because in the 27 years of my imprisonment, indeed, throughout the life of the ANC, you have claimed our struggle. There is an umbilical cord that ties us together. So let us act in unity. [Applause] Let us double and redouble our efforts to bring to a speedy end this shameful blot on humanity, this crime against humanity.

At the Rivonia trial, at which I was sentenced to life imprisonment, I said from the dock, "During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination and we fight against Black domination. I have cherished an ideal for a democratic society in which all persons will live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I am prepared to live for and achieve. But if need be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die." [Applause].

To you, the wonderful citizens of New York, I declare that I stand by every word of my statement from the dock.

Death to racism!

Glory to the sister and brotherhood of peoples throughout the world.

Thank you very much. [Applause and chants]

Continue the sanctions,' urges ANC leader

Continued from front page

flags, and as streamers attached to small flags. "Sanctions until democracy" was a popular T-shirt, along with many that included the likeness of Mandela.

The rally was preceded by a "Walk for Freedom," organized by area students to raise funds for the ANC. While most rally participants came as a result of media publicity, some organized contingents dotted the crowd.

The state AFL-CIO went on record in favor of the action. Local 201 of the International Union of Electronic Workers at the General Electric plant in Lynn, Massachusetts, and the chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NACP) filled a bus from Boston's North End.

Youth and community leaders prepared a "Truth Forum" at Madison Park High School in the Roxbury community of Boston that Mandela addressed prior to the rally. The forum likened the struggle against apartheid to those for Black equality and economic justice in the United States.

When asked what he hoped to hear from Mandela, one student said, "More ways to fight for freedom, because Black people have suffered so much."

A 15-year-old woman said she hoped Mandela would "tell us to keep on going to free ourselves."

"We have come to tell you of our admiration and respect for you," Mandela told the

1,500 young people and community activists packed into the school hall. "We want to assure you that the ANC has been unbanned because of your support."

The giant welcome for Mandela in the United States and the outpouring of support for maintaining sanctions have helped push back South African President F.W. de Klerk's initial success in wooing governments to relax the punitive measures.

De Klerk was received in May by heads of state during a tour of Europe. He campaigned for the 12 countries of the European Community (EC) to ease their sanctions.

The Citizen, a big-business daily in South Africa, said Mandela's "triumphant tour of the United States has undone much of the success Mr. de Klerk achieved on his own tour abroad."

Meeting in Dublin, Ireland, June 25-26, the EC decided to continue sanctions, citing the need for "further clear evidence" that apartheid will be ended.

During the New York tour stop a rally of 100,000 in Harlem heard speakers compare the struggle against apartheid to the struggle in the United States for decent housing, education, health care, and jobs. The previous day 750,000 had welcomed Mandela in a series of parades and rallies.

Dhoruba al-Mujahid bin Wahad, a political activist imprisoned for 19 years, told Mandela at the Harlem event, "Our people who stand up for freedom have been railroaded to jail."

Many participants in the event collected signatures calling on the New York City government to adopt a stiff sanctions bill. One said the visit, "has helped open a lot of eyes about what apartheid is. We need to step up the publicity and spread the word more."

Following the rally, Mandela addressed 55,000 stomping, cheering, and ANC flag-waving supporters at Yankee Stadium. He was met with prolonged chants of "Keep the pressure on!"

A June 22 session of the United Nations Special Committee on Apartheid was held to hear an address by Mandela.

Representing countries from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and others from around the globe, delegates rose to salute the freedom struggle and pledge continued UN backing of the international isolation of South Africa.

The delegate representing countries in Africa explained that "the whole of the African continent is anxiously awaiting" the destruction of apartheid. "This will lead to a rejuvenated Africa," he said. The new, democratic country will be "a genuine model of statehood for all of Africa."

"The peoples of Asia, the most populous region of the earth, join in celebrating the release of Nelson Mandela," Nasim Ahmed from Pakistan told the assembly.

When Mandela rose to speak he was given a three-minute ovation from the UN delegates.

"It will forever remain an indelible blight

on human history that the apartheid crime ever occurred," Mandela told the assembly. "It will forever remain an accusation and a challenge to all men and women of conscience that it took as long as it has before all of us stood up to say: 'Enough is enough!'"

Explaining the continued repression, poverty, and denial of rights of Blacks in South Africa, Mandela scored those who condemn the ANC for waging an armed struggle against the regime.

Apartheid "still lives on," he said, "provoking strange and monstrous debates about the means that its victims are obliged to use to rid themselves of this intolerable scourge, eliciting arguments from those who choose not to act, that to do nothing must be accepted as the very essence of civilized opposition to tyranny."

The ANC leader also met with business executives from some of the largest U.S. corporations, addressed a gathering of religious leaders at Riverside Church, spoke with anti-apartheid activists, and attended several fund-raising events.

The fight for a nonracial, democratic South Africa, Mandela said at the Riverside Church gathering, includes the ANC "unequivocally opposing white racism, and Black racism. We reject sexism and have pledged ourselves to affirm and promote the equality of women in the new South Africa."

Taking the cause of the struggling people of South Africa directly to President George Bush, Mandela said: "We demand that you

Continued on Page 12

Nicaragua contras to get settlement areas, police and government posts

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — An agreement signed by leaders of the contra army and the Nicaraguan government has established terms for demobilization of the mercenaries, including the integration of some into the national police force.

The agreement, signed May 30, grants two areas to the contras for "settlement"; one in southeastern Nicaragua near the border with Costa Rica and another in the north-central part of the country not far from Honduras. Together these "development zones" are roughly equal in size to the state of Massachusetts.

A police force of 300, made up of contras, is being formed for the zones. Under the terms of the accord, these police will form part of the Ministry of Governance, formerly the Ministry of the Interior, to which the national police and customs workers belong.

The contras will also be granted positions in the municipal governments in the zones and high-level posts in several government ministries, including health, labor, and agriculture.

In exchange for these concessions, the mercenary forces agreed to continue disarming. One contra commander told Agence France Presse that the government granted more than the contras themselves had asked for.

Contra force of 17,000

While earlier reports had placed the total number of contras at a maximum of 15,000, the United Nations Observers Group for Central America (ONUCA) and the International Support and Verification Commission (CIAV) claim that as of June 17, 15,000 had turned in their weapons out of a revised figure of 17,000 contras. ONUCA and CIAV are in charge of monitoring the demobilization.

According to the Sandinista National Liberation Front daily *Barricada*, several hundred contras have refused to turn in their weapons.

Santiago Murray, CIAV coordinator, said the *Barricada* figures are exaggerated. "Only about 20 contras in the north have refused," he asserted.

Many people suspect the contras have stored weapons in the two areas they will control.

Asked if these charges are true, Murray shrugged his shoulders and said, "It's just speculation." No efforts are being made by CIAV, ONUCA, or the government to investigate. ONUCA spokesperson Angélica Hunt said, "After all, we can't be running around everywhere with metal detectors to check out rumors."

Many residents of the zones are worried, given the widespread terror unleashed by the contras during the war. They fear the contras — backed by their police force in the zones — will break up collective farms, carry out banditry, form death squads, and harass or assassinate anyone who disagrees with them.

Logical and necessary

Referring to the concessions made by the government, *Barricada* in a June 6 editorial stated, "The demands for guarantees by contras who are disarming, are not only logical, but understandable and necessary for their security." However, the paper continued, the creation of the rural police made up of contras "is not justified."

As long as the mercenaries maintain part of their forces intact, the paper notes, "the demobilization will not be anything but a game of musical chairs."

In an editorial a few days later *Barricada* added that "leaving aside the outrages and abuses" represented by the concessions, the most important thing now is to insure that the demobilization of the contras be com-

pleted without delay.

"It is time for the contras to carry out their promises so that the government of President Chamorro can govern in peace and offer the security and guarantees that all the citizenry and the country demands," the paper concluded.

The Nicaraguan army continues to disarm peasant cooperatives, farm workers, and militias.

In recent days some 500 rifles belonging to cooperatives in Matagalpa were destroyed by the army in the presence of ONUCA and CIAV representatives.

On June 15 President Violeta Chamorro announced plans for the reduction of the army to 41,000 soldiers. At one time numbering over 80,000 troops, the army dropped to 55,000 after the electoral victory of Chamorro in February, in large part due to desertions by draftees. Remaining draftees will be released from service by December, Chamorro stated.

The Nicaraguan president emphasized that the main task of the army at this time is to continue disarming the civilian population. She announced the formation of a joint



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Contreras near town of Pradera in north-central Nicaragua, May 1990. Pact grants contras two settlement areas roughly the size of Massachusetts.

commission made up of army officials and former commanders of the contras to oversee a national plan for the turning in of weapons.

Minister of Governance Carlos Hurtado stated that out of 8,000 police in February, the force has dropped to less than 5,000. He said

the resignations were a product in some cases of "ideological" differences resulting from the February 25 victory of Chamorro and in others of low salaries. The minister said he would raise wages and hire more cops in the near future.

U.S., Argentina hold military maneuvers

BY LUIS MADRID

NEW YORK — "The mid-May visit by Gen. Maxwell Thurman, head of the U.S. Southern Command, and the participation of Green Beret units in joint maneuvers with the Argentine military is one sign of the U.S. rulers' concern about the accelerating social crisis in Argentina," Marcelo Zugadi said in a recent interview here.

"The U.S. government has increased its military activity in other parts of Latin America too," he noted.

Zugadi is a member of the executive committee of the Movement of the Downtrodden and of the United Left (IU), a coalition of several Argentine political organizations.

Last September U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney said the "war against drugs" is "a high-priority national security mission." Since then, U.S. military activity in Latin America has increased, Zugadi pointed out. Last December's invasion of Panama, an attempt in January to blockade Colombia's coasts with a squadron of naval vessels carrying 8,000 sailors, and the more recent paramilitary operations and plans for constructing a military base in Peru are examples of Washington's stepped-up military presence under the guise of fighting drugs.

In a May 29 press conference in Buenos Aires, Gen. Martín Bonnet, the Argentine army's chief of staff, denied the joint maneuvers were related to a war against drugs. But the only explanation he offered was that the army's duty is "to safeguard those high national interests established by the government."

Zugadi, however, placed the maneuvers within the context of sharpening social problems. "If you want to know the meaning of the word 'crisis,' you must go to Argentina," he said. "Argentina's foreign debt serves as imperialism's master key to impose its economic as well as political policies" on working people.

\$60 billion debt

Zugadi described the scope of Argentina's debt to big banks in New York, London, and other financial centers. "When Raúl Alfonsín assumed power at the end of 1983, after almost seven years of military dictatorship, the debt totaled \$46 billion. In the first four years of his administration Argentina paid \$14 billion to service it; yet last year the debt had again reached more than \$60 billion." Argentina is the third largest debtor among the semicolonial countries. Only Brazil and Mexico have higher debts.

"The extraordinary drain of the country's wealth was carried out according to a plan imposed by the International Monetary Fund," Zugadi noted. The plan also resulted in "a sharp drop in government employees' wages and a cut in the public services and health-care systems. There were some firings, and workers' wages fell by 50 percent."

The Argentine activist pointed to the alarming "30,000 children who die every year due to malnutrition in a country that this year alone will export \$8 billion in grain and meat products." Argentina has a population of 30 million and an estimated 20 percent unemployment level.

"The best candidate they had to 'solve' the crisis was Alfonsín, a clear defender of capitalism, yet a man with a progressive and democratic demeanor," said Zugadi. "But he was liquidated; they killed him politically in three years. Right after the elections he enjoyed the majority's approval but was forced out of office five months before his term was up." During Alfonsín's administration 13 general strikes were held, Zugadi noted.

In 1989, in the middle of an economic disaster, "the most reactionary sector of the Peronists won the elections."

The Justicialist Party — called "Peronist" after its founder Juan Domingo Perón, who served as the country's president from 1946 to 1955 and again in the 1970s — is the party of current president Carlos Saúl Menem.

Menem began by "forming a cabinet built around Bunge y Born, one of the world's biggest food trading monopolies. The president of the multinational company's subsidiary in Argentina became minister of the economy," Zugadi said. "So big capital began running the government directly through its executives."

Belt-tightening measures

When Menem took office last July, he launched a severe belt-tightening program. "But it crumbled by September. And again inflation shot up. Then, a new economic plan, which was simply copied from the previous one, only more brutal, was put forward. By December there was relative stability," Zugadi said, "but then another inflationary peak." In 1989, according to the Argentine Institute for National Statistics, the cost of living rose 12,000 percent.

"If the Radical Civic Union — Alfonsín's party — was destroyed as a political alternative in five years," Zugadi commented, "the Peronist party has been discredited in five months."

Measures announced last March by Antonio Erman González, the regime's third minister of the economy, as part of the third emergency economic plan, included early retirement for government workers, closing the national mortgage bank, and delaying government payments to suppliers.

In mid-April "the government issued a call for the 'Marcha del Sí,' the yes march: yes to the economic program, yes to privatizations, yes to the payment of the foreign debt. The higher echelons of the bourgeoisie, the oligarchy, and the entire state apparatus supported it. In addition, the government used food distributions and other gimmicks," he said, "to manipulate people to support the action. Some 60,000 gathered at the Plaza de Mayo, in front of the governmental seat.

"In response," Zugadi continued, "the United Left called the 'Marcha del No': no to the foreign debt, no to the release of the military officers imprisoned for violations of human rights, no to unemployment, and so on."

"The IU, which got 2 percent of the votes as opposed to 50 percent by the winning party in the presidential elections, brought 90,000 protesters to the Plaza," Zugadi said.

Probes by military

At the same time, he pointed out, the military is making probes for openings in the context of this crisis.

"The commanders of the *carapintadas* — Aldo Rico and Mohamed Seineldín — are touring the country," Zugadi said. "They go to the unions and meet with workers offering them a perspective supposedly anti-imperialist, most definitely anticommunist, and for the development of a 'Roman Catholic country.'"

The *carapintadas* — which literally means painted faces, a reference to the camouflage grease worn by soldiers — were the main force behind the unsuccessful military revolts against Alfonsín. A few of them were jailed for some time and others were forced to retire.

"They are working with a section of the military, the Peronist union officials, and the Catholic church hierarchy," said Zugadi.

In February, Menem authorized the armed forces to take responsibility for internal security in case the economic problems spark social unrest.

"There are now plans for larger U.S.-Argentine maneuvers in September in the country's northern region near Brazil and Paraguay, between the Iguazú Falls and the Buenos Aires delta region," Zugadi said.

Bonn, E. Berlin see abortion rights actions

BY LÜKO WILLMS

FRANKFURT, West Germany — Demonstrations for a woman's right to abortion were held in the two German capitals and in some other cities in East Germany on June 16.

In Bonn, West Germany's capital, more than 10,000 protestors from all over West and East Germany participated in the largest abortion rights action in many years. The demonstration was called by a coalition that included feminist groups, the Young Socialists, student organizations, the Communist Party, women of the German Social Democratic Party, the Green Party, and trade unions.

In East Berlin, 100 women marched in a demonstration called by the Independent Women's Association and other feminist groups. They protested against the possible adoption of West German abortion laws in East Germany or in a unified Germany. Smaller actions were held in other East German cities.

Sharpening attacks on the right to abortion in West Germany and a debate on the future of abortion laws in a unified Germany

sparked the actions. "Delete Article 218 — women should themselves decide!" was the central slogan in Bonn.

Article 218 is the law in West Germany that declares abortion a punishable crime. Women are allowed an abortion only in specified exceptional situations and then only during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. A woman seeking an abortion must see a doctor who has to testify that the woman's health is in danger, the fetus deformed, or the pregnancy was caused by rape. The woman must then submit to counselling by a certified agency after which she may be permitted to have the abortion, but only from a second doctor.

Women in East Germany have had the right to an abortion on demand during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy since 1972.

"We have to fight together so that German unification is not achieved to the detriment of women," said Gudrun Hamacher, a member of the executive board of the IG Metall union. The West German-based union has 2.6 million members.

The threat of the West German law being thrust upon East German women raises "a

new and long forgotten subject" for East German women, Christina Schenk, representing the Independent Women's Association, said in East Berlin. She called for a unified German state to guarantee a woman's right to choose abortion and for the extension of East Germany's abortion laws to all of Germany. "This is the first common fight of the all-German women's movement" she concluded.

In northern parts of West Germany, abortion prohibitions are loosely enforced, but conditions in the two southern federal states of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg are much more difficult. In Bavaria abortions can only be performed in hospitals, and the government has also initiated a bill to further restrict the right to abortion.

"Beware a united Memmingen!" was a popular slogan in the Bonn demonstration, a warning about extending the situation in Bavaria to a unified Germany. The small Bavarian city of Memmingen has been the scene of trials against 150 women for having illegal abortions performed by Dr. Horst Theissen, who has been sentenced to 30 months in prison. One of the women who has faced trial spoke at the rally.

Abortion rights activists from Ireland, Italy, and France also spoke at the Bonn rally. The National Organization for Women in the United States sent greetings, as did women's groups from a number of other countries.



East Berlin action opposing West German abortion laws. Placard reads, "Lothar, don't send us women to misery!" Lothar de Maiziere is East German prime minister.

Washington suspends talks with PLO

BY HARRY RING

Striking the posture of a neutral peacemaker, Washington suspended negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization while joining with Moscow in pressuring the Israeli regime to back off on settling Soviet Jewish émigrés in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Suspension of the talks with the PLO came on the heels of a U.S. veto of a UN Security Council initiative to send an investigation team to Gaza and the West Bank. The proposed investigation was prompted by a sharp escalation of Israeli repression in both areas.

The cutoff of the talks with the PLO was announced June 20 by President George Bush. He justified it with the assertion that the PLO had not condemned to U.S. satisfaction an aborted military raid on a Tel Aviv beach by a dissident PLO faction.

Responding to Bush, a spokesperson for PLO chairman Yassir Arafat declared, "I don't think there's anybody in the PLO who would have accepted any action from the chairman that surrendered to America's bullying and blackmail."

The Palestine Liberation Front, a small PLO affiliate led by Abul Abbas, took responsibility for the May 30 seaborne attack. Four Palestinians were killed and 11 captured in the aborted operation.

In the wake of the incident, the PLO declared, "The PLO position remains unchanged. We are against any military actions that target civilians, whatever form it may take."

PLO probe

The PLO then opened an investigation into whether the raid had been aimed at civilians.

Testifying before the investigating commission, Abbas insisted the attack had not targeted civilians, noting that one group of raiders made it to shore and did nothing to harm people nearby.

The U.S.-PLO talks had been initiated by Washington in December 1988, which declared then it was satisfied that the PLO had renounced "terrorism" and recognized Israel's right to exist. But the talks were restricted by the U.S. government to marginal procedural issues and accomplished nothing of substance.

However, the decision to deal formally with the PLO constituted a breach with the Israeli government, which has persistently refused to engage in open negotiations with the PLO.

Washington to the contrary, favors an additional tactic of trying to pressure and swindle the PLO into adopting a more "moderate" position — that is, to use its leadership influence to curb the West Bank and Gaza uprising, the intifada.

The decision to open talks with the PLO and the decision to suspend them are both aimed at accomplishing this.

Washington's frictions with Israel involve more than tactical disputes on how to best box in the PLO. U.S. oil and financial interests have big stakes in the oil-rich Middle

East. While Washington uses Israel as a pillar in the area, it is also careful to maintain ties with various Arab regimes.

Balancing act

The State Department is constantly busy juggling these interests, balancing between Israel and the Arab governments and maintaining links with both. For example, Israel receives a record \$3 billion a year in U.S. aid, but Egypt is a runner-up with \$2.3 billion.

In mid-June, Secretary of State James Baker publicly rebuked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for sandbagging the "peace process" and suggested Washington had no choice but to suspend its efforts in this regard.

Commenting on this in the June 15 *New York Times*, Thomas Friedman, a reporter with close government ties, said this did not mean that Washington would now abstain.

He explained that "a powerful inducement for Washington to remain diplomatically engaged is the fact that it is Middle East peace-making that provides the bridge between American interests in the Arab world and American interests in Israel."

It was that concern for maintaining its links with the Arab regimes that led Washington to join with Moscow in compelling the Shamir government to declare it would not promote the settlement of Soviet Jewish émigrés in the West Bank and Gaza. The threat of such a settlement policy had evoked outrage throughout the Arab world.

Meanwhile, the intifada, now in its 31st month, reached an explosive new level; with the murder of seven Palestinians in the Israeli town of Rishon le Zion.

That act of carnage by Ami Popper, a former member of the Israeli army, sparked a huge protest throughout the West Bank and Gaza. There was also a new level of militant protest by Palestinians living inside Israel's pre-1967 borders. In several cases these protests were joined by other Israelis.

Spreads to Jordan

These developments were buttressed by protests in neighboring Jordan that were the biggest since the intifada began. Large numbers of the Palestinians driven from their homeland by the Israeli government have settled in Jordan and now constitute some 60 percent of the population there.

The Palestinian paper, *al-Fajr*, reported that there were protests in virtually every refugee camp and city in Jordan. There were a number of bloody clashes with troops and police.

In the capital city of Amman, the Marriott Hotel was attacked and troops had to prevent protesters from marching on the U.S. embassy.

In the West Bank and Gaza, Israeli troops responded to the protests with new repression. In the week-long protest, 23 Palestinians were reported killed and nearly 900 injured. This prompted the motion for a UN investigation, later vetoed by the U.S. government.

At the time of the bloodletting in Rishon

le Zion, Israeli authorities were quick to declare the killer deranged. But on June 18 Israeli army radio reported that after psychiatric tests, Popper was declared fit for trial. He was indicted for murder of the seven Palestinians and for attempted murder of 10 others who were wounded.

The following greetings were sent to the Workers Party of Korea in Pyongyang, North Korea, by the national convention of the Socialist Workers Party. The gathering was held in Chicago June 7-10.

The delegates of the 35th National Convention of the Socialist Workers Party convey warm revolutionary greetings and solidarity to you and the people of Korea in your struggle for reunification.

For almost a century imperialist occupation forces — first Japanese and then U.S. — have plundered your country, violated its sovereignty, and denied the Korean people's right to self-determination.

Forty-five years ago, as your nation reasserted its independence, U.S. troops invaded the south, crushing the popular uprising that declared the People's Republic of Korea. A U.S.-backed regime was installed there, which continues to rule today through bloody repression.

Forty years ago Washington carried out its criminal aggression aimed at conquering all of Korea. Millions of Koreans were killed or wounded, and thousands of U.S. GIs lost their lives in this imperialist war. Korean patriots fought heroically and, together with international volunteers from the People's Republic of China, stalemated the U.S. invasion at the 38th Parallel.

Today the division of Korea remains the most important and explosive unresolved national division imposed by the U.S. imperialist rulers in the aftermath of World War II. The U.S. nuclear weapons stationed in the south and aimed at the north register this fact. Washington's aggression against your country continues to this day, as exemplified by the "Team Spirit 90" military maneuvers off your coast.

The Socialist Workers Party pledges to tell the truth about the history and current reality of Washington's dirty war against your country. These facts have been covered up and hidden from the working people of the United States. We will continue to join with others in the United States, in Korea, and throughout the world who demand that Washington unconditionally withdraw all U.S. forces from Korea now.

We further pledge to continue our uncompromising support for the Korean people's just struggle for reunification. Your call to tear down the wall built by South Korean forces with U.S. aid; for freedom of travel and exchange between north and south; for

a single Korean seat in the United Nations; for talks between north and south to produce a nonaggression pact; and for a united front of all Koreans for reunification, deserve the support of working people worldwide.

U.S. out of Korea now!
Tear down the wall!



Mandela posters & postcards

Order your own copy of this portrait of Nelson Mandela.

Painting is by South African artist Dumile Feni and appears on the *Pathfinder Mural* in New York City. The six-story artwork celebrates the lives and writings of working-class and revolutionary leaders whose works are published by *Pathfinder Press*.

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— CALENDAR —

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Canada's Rulers Face Political Crisis: Support for Québec Self-Determination Grows. Speaker: Bob Braxton, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 7, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

IOWA

Des Moines

Welcome Nelson Mandela! Keep the Pressure on Apartheid! Speakers: Nan Bailey, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Iowa, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431; Jeff Weiss, member Ames Coalition Against Apartheid. Translation to Spanish. Sat., June 30, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

The Struggle for Palestinian Self-Determination. Panel discussion. Sat., July 7. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: dinner \$3; program, \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

‘Continue sanctions,’ says Mandela

Continued from page 9

Bush and the U.S. Congress, the ANC delegation spent June 24–26 in Washington, D.C.

In a welcoming ceremony on the White House lawn prior to a meeting between Bush and Mandela, Bush prodded the ANC leader, calling on “all elements of South African society to renounce the use of violence and armed struggle.”

Mandela responded that Bush’s remarks “are due to the fact that he has not yet got a proper briefing from us. . . . The methods of political action which are used by the Black people of South Africa were determined by the South African government.”

The usual decorum of such formal ceremonies was broken by White House employees, many of whom are Black, who cheered Mandela from windows and on the grounds.

Following the White House meeting, Mandela was given an enthusiastic greeting at the national headquarters of the AFL-CIO by the building staff. A meeting with the trade union federation’s executive board followed.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland pledged to “oppose the removal of sanctions and support their strengthening until apartheid joins segregation in the dustbin of history, and until you and your comrades . . . take your rightful place in the leadership of a truly just, democratic, and humane society.”

Congress convened a special joint meeting at which Mandela presented a speech, evoking the revolutionary struggles from U.S. history, including the 1776 War of Independence to the Civil War and the fight for Black rights.

Only two other “private citizens” have addressed such a meeting of Congress. The senators and representatives interrupted Mandela’s speech 19 times with applause, including three standing ovations.

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NEBRASKA

Omaha

March Against Racism. Stop police brutality. For affirmative action. Protest racist attacks. Sat., July 7, 4 p.m. Omaha City Hall, 18th and Farnam. Sponsor: Omaha Coalition Against Racism. For more information call Urban

League (402) 453-9730 or Nebraskans for Peace 453-0776.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

United Airlines: Can Workers Save Jobs, Improve Conditions by Buying Their Company? Speaker: Patty Iiyama, Socialist Workers Party, member International Association of Machinists Local 1322. Sat., June 30, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (718) 398-6983.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh

Nelson Mandela's U.S. Visit. Video coverage and reports from New York, Boston, Atlanta, and Detroit Mandela rallies. Speaker: Holly Harkness, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress. Sun., July 1, 6 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

Revolutionary Cuba Today. Slideshow presentation and video excerpt of TV interview with Fidel Castro. Speaker: Nancy Brown, Socialist Workers Party, on strike against Eastern, recently returned from Cuba. Sun., July 8, 6 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

Support the Machinists on Strike at Eastern Airlines. Protest the start-up of Eastern flights out of Houston Hobby. Picket from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thurs. July 5. Flight departures at 7 a.m., 10:15 a.m., and 4:05 p.m. For more information call IAM strike headquarters, (713) 540-7511.

Nelson Mandela and the South African Freedom Struggle. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 14, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Almeda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

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BRITAIN

Cardiff

Teamster Rebellion: The Story of the 1934 U.S. Teamsters Strike. Speaker: Will Carroll, Communist League, member Amalgamated Engineering Union on strike at Reynolds Chains. Sat., July 7, 7 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0222-484677.

London

Namibia Today. Speaker: Sandi Sijake, Na-

tional Union of Namibian Workers, imprisoned 15 years by South African government on Robben Island. Fri., July 6, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 71-928-7947.

Manchester

Justice for Mark Curtis. Report on latest developments in defense campaign for the framed-up unionist and activist from Des Moines, Iowa. Speaker: Andy Buchanan, *Militant* reporter at UN Commission on Human Rights meeting in Geneva. Showing of video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*. Wed., July 11, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 061-839 1766.

North Yorks

Eye-Witness Report from South Africa. Speaker: Rich Palser, *Militant* correspondent on South Africa reporting team. Sun., July 8, 11 a.m. Ship Inn, Ayre St., Castleford. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0742-729469.

Notts

Eye-Witness Report from South Africa. Speaker: Rich Palser, *Militant* correspondent on South Africa reporting team. Sat., July 7, 7–9 p.m. Forest House Pub, Ollerton Old Village. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0742-729469.

Sheffield

International Stakes in the Mark Curtis Defense Campaign. Speakers: Denny Fitzpatrick, participant in “parallel activities” at Copenhagen sitting of UN Helsinki committee; Jo O’Brien, Sheffield Supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Fri., July 6, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

Toronto

The Role of South African Unions. Speaker: Bafo Nyanga, representative in Canada of South African Congress of Trade Unions. Sat., July 7, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

South Africa Today. Eyewitness report and slideshow by Greg McCartan, *Militant* correspondent. Sat., July 14, 7 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Socialist Publications Fund-Raising Picnic. Benefit for *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière*. Hear Greg McCartan. Food, swimming, soccer. Sun., July 15, noon. High Park Area 23, near Queensway and Parkside Dr. Donation: \$10. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

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—THE GREAT SOCIETY—

Free-market cure — "If you can diminish the availability of cocaine and get the price up in the United States, fewer people will use it." — Donald Hamilton, a federal



Harry Ring

official explaining the rationale behind U.S. military intervention in Peru.

Big-hearted Uncle — To appease angry Okinawa residents, the

U.S. military agreed to cede to Japan some 2,000 acres of its 50,000-acre base there. Officials said the transfer might take several years since replacement sites would have to be provided for some key installations like, for instance, the U.S. golf course.

"Also, he's nude" — A New York citizen's group tried to buy subway ad space for a poster by Melissa Antonow, 12. It depicts the Marlboro man as a skeleton riding through a cemetery, with a slogan, "Come to where the cancer is." The advertising agency that handles subway ads for the city rejected the poster, assuring that its decision was unrelated to its ad work for tobacco companies.

Sounds reasonable — "If the tobacco companies can say what they think, why can't I say what I think?" — Poster artist Melissa Antonow.

Business is business — Many insurance companies offer discounts to nonsmokers because they tend to live longer. Several of the insurance companies that do so are owned by tobacco companies. And 25 insurance companies have more than \$1 billion invested in tobacco stock.

Law 'n order, Israeli style — In Gaza City, some 160 infants were overcome by fumes when Israeli soldiers fired tear gas canisters into a UN child-care clinic June 12. The officer responsible was sentenced by a military court to 10 days in jail. On

reconsideration, this was changed to 21 days, suspended.

Complex stand — A Québec workers' compensation board ruled that Provigo, a supermarket chain, provide a stool for one of its cashiers. She had suffered back and leg pains. Indicating they would appeal, a Provigo official said, "To the outsider it looked like a big, bad corporation refusing to give chairs to its employees, but the issue is much more complex than that."

Maybe now they'll do something — "WASHINGTON (AP) — Military dogs that served in Vietnam and were exposed to the same chemical sprays as American soldiers developed almost twice as

many tumors of the testicles as military dogs that served elsewhere, a study has found."

Dick Tracy — In May, housing starts fell for the fourth month in a row, dropping to their lowest level since the last recession. According to one news account, analysts see the decline "as further evidence that the housing market continues to weaken."

Thought for the week — "What we have been doing in the United States is cutting our wages." — Former labor secretary Raymond Marshall, noting that real wages have dropped 12 percent in 20 years and that a dozen countries now have higher wages than the United States.

Canada's antidemocratic constitution is defeated

Continued from front page

ment by June 23, 1990, or become void.

But the refusal of the Manitoba and Newfoundland governments to support even the minor verbal concession given to Québec precipitated the deal's collapse when the deadline passed.

The openly anti-Québec chauvinism of an entire wing of Canada's rulers helped fuel the growing determination of Québécois to demand their national rights. Québécois are an oppressed, French-speaking nationality in Canada, a predominantly English-speaking country of 26 million.

According to opinion polls, a majority of Québec's 6 million people, 80 percent of whom are Québécois, now support some form of Québec independence. Rhythmic chants of "in-dé-pen-dance" were taken up by participants along the entire three-mile route.

On June 24, after the original event was postponed that day due to predictions of rain, a spontaneous 12-hour march of 5,000 to 10,000 young people strode through city streets demanding an independent Québec.

On the eve of the Fête nationale the Québec Federation of Labor published a major ad in the daily papers that called for a sovereign Québec as "an indispensable condition for forging a country and institutions which respond to the needs and priorities of the majority of the people."

Opposition by Native Indians

It was not only the resistance of Québécois that defeated the constitutional maneuvers of

Canada's capitalist rulers. In fact, in the final two weeks leading up to the June 23 legal deadline for passage of the amendment, it was the determined opposition of Native Indian people that proved decisive.

Several thousand Natives took part in demonstrations and meetings across the country in support of the successful efforts of Elijah Harper, Manitoba's sole Native member of that province's legislature, to block any possibility of its passage there. The large majority of Canada's 1 million Natives and their organizations oppose the 1982 constitution, which gives no meaningful recognition to their rights.

Natives were particularly angry that they were completely excluded from the Meech Lake round of constitutional negotiations, as they had been before the approval of the 1982 constitution.

"What we're fighting for is democracy," Harper told a demonstration of 3,000 Natives and their supporters at the Manitoba provincial legislature June 21. Natives are demanding "the very same goals" as the Québécois, he explained: self-determination and self-government.

The federal and Québec governments both tried to claim that the Natives' determination to "kill Meech Lake" was directed against the Québécois.

Phil Fontaine, the head of the Manitoba Assembly of Chiefs, denied the charge in an open letter that was published in Québec newspapers. "We, the Native people of Manitoba, understand and solidarize with your strong determination to preserve and pro-

mote the French language and culture in Canada. We are fighting for our language and culture" as well.

There was widespread support for the Native demands among participants in Montréal's June 25 events. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs received up to 600 telephone calls of support per day from non-Natives across the country.

The federal government brought enormous pressure to bear on Native leaders to lift their opposition to the Meech Lake accord, using thinly veiled threats of economic reprisals. These maneuvers were publicly denounced by Native leaders.

"What could happen to us that's any worse than how we are living already?" Phil Fontaine asked in an interview. "We are the poorest among the poor. . . . In several reservations the unemployment rate is close to 90 percent; 85 percent live on welfare; our suicide rate is six times the national average; 50 percent of our people over 15 are illiterate; our housing conditions are deplorable; 22 percent of prisoners in federal penitentiaries are Natives even though we only comprise 5 percent of the population."

Native leaders insisted that a constitution that did not address any of these problems would never receive their support.

'Victory for working people'

"The defeat of the Meech Lake accord is a major victory, not only for Québécois and Natives, but for working people across Canada," explained the Communist League's three candidates in upcoming mayoral elections in Montréal and provincial elections in Ontario and British Columbia. Michel Dugré, Joe Young, and Katy Lerougetel in a

statement said that Ottawa's constitutional maneuvers had been defeated by the resistance of the oppressed, not primarily by the infighting among capitalist politicians divided over how to respond to that resistance.

"This victory has significantly strengthened the self-confidence and determination of Québécois and Natives in the fight for their national and democratic rights," the statement emphasized.

As a result the political crisis of Canada's rulers has deepened further. Seven federal members of Parliament from Québec have resigned from the two major national parties, the Liberals and the Conservatives. Along with other MPs who are rumored to be resigning, they're expected to form a new proindependence party in Parliament.

Canada's capitalist politicians and media are now openly debating whether or not it is still possible to maintain a single Canadian state and block the dynamic towards Québec independence or some form of loose confederation.

"This country's capitalist rulers have always tried to convince working people that we have a stake in defending 'Canadian unity' rather than the unity of the oppressed and exploited," the three communist candidates pointed out. "But Canada is organized and governed solely in order to defend the profits of a tiny handful of wealthy capitalist families."

"The labor movement can only advance by fighting to defend the just demands of all of the dispossessed against the ruling rich. That's why the defeat of the Meech Lake accord as a result of the struggles of Natives and Québécois should be cheered by every worker in this country."

Puerto Rican freedom fighters receive heroes' welcome in New York

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN AND EVELYN VEGA

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Lolita Lebrón, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irving Flores, and Oscar Collazo — heroes of the struggle for Puerto Rican independence who each spent some 25 years in U.S. prisons — were in town to participate in the Harlem rally for Nelson Mandela on June 21. There they were introduced to the crowd of 100,000 assembled on 125th Street.

On June 22, the last day of Mandela's New York visit, several hundred gathered outside the Cultural Center of Brooklyn's Williamsburg section to welcome Cancel Miranda, Flores, and Collazo.

The four independence fighters — along with Andrés Figueroa Cordero — were incarcerated in federal penitentiaries for taking up arms against the colonial status Washington imposes on Puerto Rico. Four of the five had been tried and convicted for a 1954 attack on the House of Representatives, which had just passed new legislation on the island's status. A movement for their freedom gained worldwide support and won the release of all five by 1979.

The Williamsburg event was an opportunity for many young people to see these legendary figures. The fighters were wel-



Roberto A. Lugo
Lolita Lebrón

comed by chants of "Independencia para Puerto Rico!"

"We were categorized as assassins," said Cancel Miranda to the crowd. "But if you look at the history of this country — from the slaughter of the Indians to the enslavement of Blacks to the exploitation and daily humiliation of Puerto Rican and Asian workers to the invasion of Panama — you have to say that is the politics of assassination."

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSMAGAZINE PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

July 4, 1980

Washington's campaign against the Grenada revolution took a sharp turn on June 19 with the attempted assassination of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop during a terrorist bombing of a mass rally in the Grenadian capital of St. George's.

Bishop and other Grenadian leaders who were present escaped uninjured, but two young women were killed and dozens of persons were wounded.

THE MILITANT
Published in the Interests of the Working People
Price 10c

The military coup in Algeria June 19 ended the alliance between the wing of the National Liberation Front (FLN) led by Ahmed Ben Bella — which was oriented toward socialism, linking itself to the masses through "workers' self-management" — and the one headed by Houari Boumediene, which favored an Islamic "Arab socialism."

The coup places in danger the main conquest of the revolution up to now — workers' self-management of the nationalized enterprises.

The absence of any support for the coup from the unions or the youth of the FLN, the massive arrests of left-wing militants, the first popular demonstrations against the coup and in favor of Ben Bella, all confirm this estimate.

The reasons for the easy victory of the coup are clear. There was no genuine mass party of the vanguard capable of mobilizing the most politically conscious sector of the toiling population of the towns and countryside on a nationwide scale. The second agrarian reform was interminably postponed, thus disappointing the most dispossessed layers of the countryside, to whom their revolution has not yet brought any fundamental change in their miserable standard of living.

No solution was worked out to the bitter problem of unemployment, thus contributing to a grave rise in apathy and the progressive demobilization of the masses, who demonstrated their support for a revolutionary socialist orientation by the hundreds of thousands in March and May 1963.

The decision of the FLN congress to construct a genuine popular militia, thus arming the workers and poor peasants, was never carried out. The army was becoming a professional force holding a privileged position in relation to the rest of the population.

The increasing personal Bonapartism of Ben Bella was a big factor in his downfall, reflecting the narrowing basis of his rule and therefore his increasing vulnerability.

New attacks on abortion rights

On June 25 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it is constitutional for states to pass laws that require unmarried women under the age of 18 to notify their parents before having an abortion. It affirmed this ruling in two separate decisions, upholding parental consent laws in Ohio and Minnesota.

The Ohio law requires women to notify one parent. It includes a "bypass procedure" that gives the young woman the right to a judicial hearing if she does not wish to involve her parents. To exercise the bypass procedure, she must provide "clear and convincing" evidence that she should not be required to notify a parent.

The Minnesota law is even more restrictive. It requires notification of both parents even if one of the parents does not live at home or has never even seen the young woman. According to the court the law does not deny a woman her constitutional right to an abortion because a judicial bypass procedure is allowed. The Minnesota law also has a section that requires a woman to wait 48 hours after notifying her parents before terminating the pregnancy.

The cynicism of this move by the court is evident in the fact that the judges were aware that only half the teenagers in Minnesota actually live with both of their biological parents. Not to mention the obvious fiction that teenagers in need of abortions can easily initiate court proceedings.

The decision is a direct attack on *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that established the right of women to abortion.

The majority opinion in *Roe v. Wade* states that "a right of personal privacy, or a guarantee of certain areas or zones of privacy, does exist under the Constitution. . . . This right of privacy is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy." For young women in Ohio and Minnesota the right to privacy has been taken away by the court.

The decisions by the Supreme Court are a blow aimed not only at women but at all working people.

It is women, and only women, who must have the right to decide when or if they will have children. Without the right to abortion women do not have control over their own bodies, which means they cannot be politically, socially, or economically equal to men. It puts a limit on women

becoming self-confident fighters alongside men in the battles working people are waging today or in struggles to come.

The right to privacy — which is at the heart of *Roe v. Wade* — was an important gain for working people. It was won in the course of the civil rights movement and strengthened by the fight for abortion rights. Chipping away at this right weakens our ability to form political organizations free of government harassment and to defend those organizations. It also makes government intervention and monitoring of our private lives easier.

These recent court rulings are part of a series of decisions by the court that have weakened *Roe v. Wade*. These attacks come in the context of the offensive by the employers in recent years that has cut our wages and eroded our standard of living. The aim of the employing class is to destroy the combativeness and self-confidence of working people and deepen the divisions among us. The bosses are driven to do this to reverse their declining rate of profit. The Supreme Court is an instrument for their policy.

The court is not yet willing to face the explosion that would be the consequence of outlawing abortion altogether. It does, however, place humiliating and demeaning roadblocks in the path of women making what should be private decisions. The laws will result in an increase in unwanted pregnancies carried to term, unsafe and botched abortions, and death among the many young women who will be unable to comply with the restrictions.

The framers of these laws understand that they will not stop abortions from being performed. Their approach and the approach of the Supreme Court has been to strike at those who are the most vulnerable in the fight over abortion rights — the young and the poor — to divide them off and make them pariah layers without rights and beyond the bounds of solidarity. At the same time they strive to lay the basis for further legal challenges to weaken the foundations of *Roe v. Wade*.

The aim of working people should be the opposite. We should protest these recent Supreme Court decisions. We should bring this issue to our unions and organizations and organize to defend the right of all women to choose.

A challenge for U.S. labor

Continued from front page

The deepening struggle in South Africa and Mandela's call for international solidarity poses a challenge to the labor movement in the United States and other countries. It highlights the need for a major educational effort about the South African freedom struggle. It underlines the need to bring the weight of the unions to bear in the struggle to pressure the government on every level to continue economic sanctions, to enforce them, and extend them.

Workers and union members around the country should take up Mandela's message: until there is a nonracial, nonsexist, democratic South Africa there will be no peace.

The imposition and maintenance of sanctions have contributed to isolating South Africa internationally. This has occurred in the context of Pretoria's momentous defeat in southern Angola at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in 1988, which reversed apartheid's expansionist course and led to the independence of Namibia. This gave impetus to the massive protests and demonstrations inside South Africa in the past year; and to the deepening of the organization and heightened struggles by working people in urban areas and the countryside. Under the banner of the Congress of South African Trade Unions millions of workers are strengthening and extending trade union organization.

In his June 22 address to the UN, Mandela declared, apartheid "will forever remain an indelible blight on human history." Future generations will surely wonder, he said, how such an abominable system established itself.

In Harlem to 100,000 people Mandela said that at the end of the 20th century, "It is intolerable and unacceptable that the cancer of racism is still eating away at the fabric of societies in different parts of our planet." He called apartheid "one of the most important global issues confronting all humanity."

The struggle to abolish apartheid is of similar world significance as the revolutionary battle in the last century to abolish chattel slavery in the United States. And just as that struggle helped to inspire and revitalize the working-class

struggle in Britain and other countries, destroying apartheid will inspire and help advance the confidence of working people in the United States today.

The challenge to the labor movement to take up the fight to help eradicate apartheid is comparable to the challenge that faced the labor movement in the United States in the 1950s and '60s during the struggle to smash Jim Crow segregation and win civil rights for Blacks, and the battle during the 1960s and '70s to stop the U.S. war in Vietnam. However, the big majority of unions didn't throw their weight behind these fights.

The opportunity for the labor movement to weigh in today in the historic fight to destroy apartheid is much greater. This is because there is a new resistance among workers right now. There have been increasing struggles between labor and the employers recently where a layer of workers have increased their determination, confidence, and class understanding — from the Eastern Airlines workers and Greyhound bus drivers to union coal miners who won a fight against Pittston's union-busting efforts.

This fighting spirit, the experiences more and more workers are gaining in struggle, and the confidence that comes with standing up for your rights and mounting a fight opens up new possibilities for labor to heed the call to help abolish apartheid.

It's precisely the labor movement that has the power in numbers — trade unions being the biggest organizations working people have — and the resources needed to mount such a fight to "keep the pressure on" South Africa.

The growing layers of battle-tested union fighters can help lead this fight and help mobilize broad support from working farmers, whose South African counterparts are fighting for the *right* to till the land; from students; and from all progressive-minded people.

The overwhelming response by working people to Mandela's visit shows the grand potential that exists to mobilize the broadest forces possible — workers not yet in unions, the unemployed — to be part of the struggle to rid the earth of the repugnant system of apartheid.

Frame-up in the redwood forests

BY DOUG JENNESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Whenever working-class militants or other fighters for social justice challenge the prerogatives of big business or their political representatives, they are bound to run into police beatings, scab or vigilante violence, frame-ups, jailings, and killings.

Four union militants are serving long prison terms in Kentucky on frame-up charges related to the shooting death of a scab during the 1984-85 miners' strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co.; and John McCoy, a union activist, was killed earlier this year on a picket line in West Virginia.

A striking Greyhound bus driver was killed in the northern California town of Redding by a scab-driven bus in March.

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Other strikers throughout the country have been arrested on frame-up charges of "violence" related to shootings at Greyhound buses.

In Iowa packinghouse worker Mark Curtis is serving 25 years on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. He is a union and political activist who was involved in the struggle to defend Latino coworkers threatened with deportation.

In New York City, 60-year-old Puerto Rican muralist Rafael Rivera-Garcia is being tried on charges of "attempted murder," after shooting a racist who violently attacked him following months of harassment aimed at driving him and his family out of the neighborhood where they live.

Activists fighting to curb the squandering of our natural resources and the destruction of our environment by big-business profiteers are also meeting violent abuse by the cops and vigilantes. Here, in northern California, two leaders of the struggle to end the cutting of giant redwoods were injured when a pipe bomb blew up in their car on May 24 as they were driving through Oakland. Darryl Cherney suffered facial cuts, and Judi Bari is still in the hospital recovering from a broken pelvis and other injuries. The activists and their organization — Earth First! — had received at least 50 death threats in recent months.

As if this murderous attack wasn't enough, however, Alameda County authorities said the bomb belonged to the two victims and accused them of possessing a booby trap and violating state explosive laws. The court ordered that each post a \$100,000 bail bond.

Since then the FBI and county authorities claim they have been conducting an investigation. So far, however, they have not brought any formal charges against the two. An arraignment scheduled for May 29 was postponed. Another hearing set for June 22 was rescheduled to July 18 when the district attorney's office announced that the police and FBI investigation of the bombing "has not been completed."

Meanwhile, the two continue to be vilified in the press as the cops attempt to construct a frame-up case against them.

Bari and Cherney have been publicly prominent in organizing and promoting a series of protests called "Redwood Summer" that began June 20. The protests have included sit-ins to block trucks carrying redwood logs.

The targets are the biggest timber companies operating in the redwood forests of northern California. The three largest are: Louisiana Pacific, Pacific Lumber, and Georgia Pacific. Georgia Pacific and Louisiana Pacific, for example, own 555,000 acres of timberland in Mendocino County, and Pacific Lumber owns 195,000 acres of old-growth redwoods in Humboldt County.

Redwoods are the tallest trees in the world and are among the oldest, some of them having lived for a thousand years. At one time there were nearly 2 million acres of redwoods along the Pacific Coast from south of Monterey to southern Oregon. Today, the virgin redwood timber occupies less than 150,000 acres.

For decades people have struggled to conserve sections of these remarkable forests. A small Redwood National Park was established in 1968. Since then the federal government has purchased some more redwood land for a pretty penny. But most of the remaining forests are privately owned, and logging continues at an intensified pace.

Pacific Lumber, for example, was bought out with junk bonds in 1985 by Maxxam Group, Inc., a New York investment firm. The high level of debt financing means that in 1990 interest payments will approach \$79 million. To help pay this interest, Maxxam has directed Pacific Lumber to triple its cutting of redwood timber.

This massive deforestation underlines the need for taking these lands out of private hands and making them government property.

The timber bosses attempt to convince loggers and sawmill workers to support their fast-paced logging that clears thousands of acres, eliminating all the old growth and leaving no replacement trees. The alternative, they argue, is no jobs. But this is a fake trade-off and workers shouldn't accept it and should demand both jobs and environmental protection.

If the powers that be can get away with framing up Bari and Cherney, it will be a blow against all working people and fighters for justice. And it will make it easier for the bosses to launch attacks on unions in the logging industry.

Mandela speeches are weapon against apartheid

Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990: "Intensify the Struggle to Abolish Apartheid." Edited by Greg McCartan. New York: Pathfinder, 1990. 74 pages, \$4.00.

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

Since his release from Victor Verster Prison near Cape Town, South Africa, Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the African National Congress, has traveled extensively

IN REVIEW

throughout Africa, Europe, and now North America speaking at numerous rallies and meetings.

His speeches address many central questions and issues facing the revolutionary struggle for a nonracial, democratic South Africa.

The new Pathfinder pamphlet, *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990: "Intensify the Struggle to Abolish Apartheid"* contains seven speeches Mandela has given this year, plus his July 1989 letter to then South African President Pieter Botha, which is a statement on the situation in South Africa. It also includes the Freedom Charter, the program of the ANC.

Reading this pamphlet is an excellent way to learn more about apartheid, and the struggle to end it.

Its editor, Greg McCartan, is a staff reporter for the *Militant*, who was recently part of a team that traveled extensively in South Africa.

In his introduction, McCartan explains, "The seven speeches by Mandela printed here have been made in South Africa and abroad since his release. Included are talks to mass rallies in Cape Town, Soweto, and Durban, as well as

addresses to such diverse audiences as the 1,200 delegates to the second congress of the South African Youth Congress and participants in a conference of business executives in Johannesburg.

"Through these speeches Mandela has turned to the millions of workers, rural working people, and youth inside South Africa. He is charting a course to mobilize, educate, and organize tens of millions in the struggle to destroy the apartheid system.

"The response to Mandela's release and support for his political message since then register the extent to which working people and progressive-minded individuals the world over have come to recognize that apartheid is a crime against humanity.

"Mandela's speeches at a huge anti-apartheid concert in Britain at London's Wembley Stadium — broadcast over radio and television to millions worldwide — and to tens of thousands of Angolans at a public rally in Luanda are also printed here.

"In these speeches Mandela explains the goals of the liberation struggle and the decisive importance of international support and solidarity in tightening the isolation of the apartheid government."

The governments of Britain, France, Greece, Spain, and the United States have lifted sanctions or are moving towards relaxing some of them. In his speeches to working people and meetings with government officials around the world, Mandela has continued to call for maintenance of economic sanctions against South Africa.

McCartan explains that in Mandela's Wembley Stadium speech April 16, the ANC leader "saluted all those the world

over who fought to force governments to break ties with the outlaw apartheid regime. 'We are here,' he said, 'because you took the humane decision that you could not ignore the inhumanity represented by the apartheid system. . . . Therefore, do not listen to anyone who says that you must give up the struggle against apartheid. Reject any suggestion that the campaign to isolate the apartheid system should be wound down,' he said, urging continuation of the economic, political, military, cultural, and sports sanctions against the government in Pretoria."

Another theme that runs through many of Mandela's speeches is the need to build and strengthen the ANC.

McCartan points out, "After 30 years in forced illegality and exile, the ANC is seeking to reestablish itself as a publicly functioning, mass-membership organization. Mandela's speeches help educate and inspire anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa to use their new and hard-won space to practice politics in order to win a large majority to the political perspectives summed up in the Freedom Charter."

This is a pamphlet that belongs in the hands of the thousands that welcome Mandela to their country; young people who are inspired by the struggle of the South African people against apartheid; and working people — like the Eastern and Greyhound strikers — who find themselves engaged in a fight. These speeches are a powerful weapon for working people and for the fight against apartheid.

The attractive pamphlet, complete with 25 footnotes at the end, was designed by Toni Gorton and includes photos by Margrethe Siem, who traveled with McCartan on the reporting team to South Africa. It is a pamphlet that shouldn't be passed up.

LETTERS

Cuba coverage

For two or three years now I have been reading your newspaper here in prison, borrowing it from other prisoners who have subscriptions. I have always wanted a subscription to it, but being an indigent inmate has kept me from trying to get one.

However, I recently found out you have a prisoner subscription fund, which makes it possible for some prisoners to receive the *Militant* free of charge. I was just reading the article in the June 8 issue, which mentions the fund.

Believe me, I don't feel right about asking for a free subscription, knowing that you folks are hard-pressed to fulfill the prisoner requests. But, you see, the *Militant* is the only publication I have seen that consistently carries articles on Cuba. And being Cuban I really enjoy reading about my country.

I must admit, I don't always agree with the kind of coverage you give Cuba. I find it too one-sided at times. Still, I like to keep up with the progress my country is making.

So I would much appreciate it if I could be placed on your free subscription list. Also if there is a prisoner fund to the Spanish-language magazine, *Perspectiva Mundial*, I would like to receive it, *por favor*.

A prisoner
Crescent City, California

Eddie Hatcher, Nelson Mandela, and all the others. I have also kept up with how the strikers at Greyhound and Eastern and in the United Mine Workers of America are still hanging in there, fighting for better wages and safety equipment.

I also have kept up with your reports and information on Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, South Africa, and other countries around the world. I must say your paper carries lots of true information.

But what I cannot understand is how do you gather your sources from torn apart countries where war is going on? I guess where there is a will there is a way.

Keep up the good work and I'll try to keep informing more people about the paper and Pathfinder books.

A prisoner
Gatesville, Texas

Racist harassment

Six hundred Emory University students rallied in April to protest racist harassment of a Black student, Sabrina Collins. Two months later the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has accused her of being the criminal, of "staging" her harassment.

Collins had been terrorized over the course of several days. Her dormitory room was vandalized with racist slurs written on the walls and floor. Personal items and money were stolen. And she received death threats. The student was so traumatized that she had to be hospitalized for several weeks.

University officials tried to keep the crimes quiet. The police were not called nor were the racist acts publicly denounced. But Black and white students organized a protest in Collins' defense. The Emory administration then called a rally, which drew students from other Atlanta schools and some Emory cafeteria and janitorial workers.

Speaking at the rally, Socialist Workers Party candidate for lieutenant governor Elizabeth Ziers spoke out against the attempts to cover up the crimes. "Emory needs an affirmative action program with quotas to establish the fact that Black students have the right to study and live on this campus," Ziers said to applause.

"The GBI slanders against Collins," she said, "serve to intimidate any person of an oppressed nationality from reporting racist crimes and demanding justice."

"No serious investigation has



John Branch

been carried out, no one charged other than the victim herself, and no trial held," Ziers said. "And now Ms. Collins is being found guilty in the media."

Ziers pointed to the need for working people to demand justice for Collins. It was their mobilizations in New York that led to the convictions of Joseph Fama and Keith Mondello in the murder of Yusuf Hawkins in Bensonhurst.

A reader
Atlanta, Georgia

What's her name?

Seth Galinsky's article in the June 8 *Militant* begins by describing an attack by the contras in Nicaragua on José Francisco Gadea "and his wife." What is her name?

If Galinsky didn't know her name, I think it would have been better to omit this incident altogether from the article.

Markie Wilson
Portland, Oregon

Protest budget cuts

A candlelight vigil of 250 was held in Louisville, Kentucky, recently to protest county budget cuts. The cuts will affect health clinics, the Meals on Wheels program, rent and utility assistance for the disabled, reading programs for children, and rodent and mosquito control. More than 100 county employees will be laid off.

The vigil was sponsored by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the county workers' union, and was joined by AFSCME members and other unionists, including from the Amalgamated Transit Union on strike at Greyhound bus lines, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, and the tobacco and aluminum workers' unions. The unionists were also joined by others who will be affected by the cuts.

The rally was addressed by representatives of AFSCME, the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, and the Central Labor Council. Activists from the Eastern Airlines and Greyhound strikes leafleted the crowd with information about their struggles.

"This is an attempt at union-busting," said Jim Nicholson, chairperson of the committee that organized the vigil. "They're not laying off by seniority and not following the contract and seem to be getting rid of active unionists."

Bronson Rozier
Louisville, Kentucky

What about anarchism?

Recently I came into contact with a few people attempting to expand the readership of the *Militant*, as well as selling Pathfinder books. I was dismayed by the fact that Pathfinder only offered books with a Marxist viewpoint on the world.

All communists nowadays pro-

mote the expression of different ideas in order to further educate the public. What about the libertarian and anarchist viewpoints?

If neo-Marxists believe in the education of the people, then perhaps they should allow prominent anarchist writers to publish materials within their organizations.

Jamie Nichols
Hudson, Québec

Keeps me in touch

Thank you for the recent renewal of my subscription to the *Militant*. The paper keeps me in touch with my people of Africa and the working people around the world. I'm lost without it.

Keep up the good work for all working people the world over.

A prisoner
Tucker, Arkansas

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. To help this important cause, send your contribution to *Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund*, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Correction

A headline in the June 29 *Militant* incorrectly stated, "British Coal calls for stockpiling in case miners strike over jobs." It was the British government — not British Coal — that issued a directive to the power companies to prepare for the possibility of job actions by the National Union of Mineworkers. Also the article indicated that the amount the government ordered stockpiled was 27 million tons of coal, "worth £16 million." The figure should be £1 billion.

"No serious investigation has

Protest at int'l AIDS conference hits discriminatory U.S. policies



Fifty organizations held June 23 march in San Francisco condemning government inaction on AIDS epidemic

BY EILEEN KOSCHAK

SAN FRANCISCO — Carrying signs — "Discrimination kills" and "AIDS treatment now" — and chanting "Health care is a right, not just for straight and white" and "Cut the red tape, release the drugs now," thousands of protesters marched in downtown San Francisco June 23 in a HIV-AIDS Unity March.

With international attention focused on San Francisco, the host city of the Sixth International Conference on AIDS, a coalition of more than 50 organizations from the San Francisco Bay and Los Angeles areas organized the march to call attention to the U.S. government's failure to respond effectively to the growing Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) epidemic. March organizers estimated the crowd at 20,000, while police estimates were 5,000 to 10,000.

The demonstration highlighted a series of protests, including civil disobedience actions

with hundreds of arrests, during the June 20-24 conference. Protests focused on specific issues and were spearheaded by the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, ACT-UP.

A June 19 demonstration at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) office hit U.S. immigration policies that restrict citizens from other countries who are infected with the AIDS virus (HIV) from entering the country. More than 1,000 people participated, shouting, "Open the borders!"

Some 500 protesters blocked downtown traffic for more than an hour June 22. They demanded more attention for women with AIDS who have suffered from limited access to AIDS treatment and experimental drugs.

Rainbow-colored flags, along with hundreds of signs and banners reading "National health care now," "Money for AIDS, not for war," and "End border restrictions now," dotted the crowd at the June 23 march. Participants clapped in unison, chanted slogans,

and blew whistles. Several buses arrived with protestors from as far away as Pittsburgh, Detroit, Mexico, and Canada.

Behind a "Delegates of the Sixth International Conference on AIDS" banner, a contingent of thousands arrived from the conference site and joined the march about halfway through the route. Together marchers and delegates crowded into the downtown Justin Herman Plaza for a rally.

Speakers on the rally platform addressed the points of unity agreed upon by the march organizing coalition. These included making effective AIDS treatment available to people denied them by government red tape, insurance company greed, and the profiteering of pharmaceutical companies; guaranteed civil and human rights for those infected with the HIV virus; universal, quality health care for all; massive funding for increased AIDS research; and an end to discrimination based on race, sex, class, sexual orientation, national origin, or immigration status, which organizers said sabotages the fight against AIDS.

Speakers addressed the international scope of the crisis provoked by the AIDS epidemic and its connection with other social issues. Calls for unity among scientists, doctors, researchers, and people with AIDS by a co-chair of the AIDS conference brought on chants of "Stop the profiteering!"

"This fight is being fought in a global context for human rights," said Arawyn Eiblyn, a national coordinator for AIDS Coalition to Network, Organize, and Win (ACT-

NOW). "We are part of society that doesn't value the lives of women, but continues to push them into back alleys," he said.

To cheers and applause Eiblyn pointed to Nelson Mandela as "a strong example for human rights around the world. We must reject the phoney human rights of George Bush. Mandela has symbolized hope and justice for all," he said.

Political protest became a strong current during the AIDS conference itself. For the first time, activists fighting for measures to deal with the epidemic were included as speakers at the conference.

Protest against immigration policy

Peter Staley, a member of the New York ACT-UP chapter, spoke on the opening day of the conference and criticized President George Bush's inattention to the epidemic. When he asked everyone who disagreed with U.S. immigration policy to stand up, more than 10,000 delegates jumped to their feet. Thousands of delegates from the 120 countries represented at the conference also wore red arm bands to protest the policy.

A boycott joined by some 100 organizations worldwide sparked by the U.S. border restrictions cut attendance at the conference. Organizers originally projected 15,000 would attend. Under pressure, the Bush administration created 10-day visas for those infected with HIV to enter the country and attend the conference. But the move was rejected as insufficient by scientists from 50 countries and public health officials across the United States.

Conference organizers gathered letters signed by delegates to be sent to the White House urging a change in the INS policy. They warned that a 1992 meeting scheduled for Boston would be moved out of the country if the restrictions were not dropped.

U.S. Secretary for Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan, who attempted to speak at the closing session of the conference, was met with a roar of shouts, whistles, and the blasts of air horns. Prior to the conference 36 organizations, including the American Public Health Association, the American Psychological Association, and AIDS groups, sent a letter to Sullivan saying, "The United States still suffers without leadership from the White House and the Department of Health and Human Services on those issues most directly shaping the future of people with HIV infection and AIDS."

Millions infected worldwide

AIDS has claimed the lives of an estimated 83,000 people in the United States and about 1 million are believed to be infected. The AIDS virus is now spreading among wider layers of the most impoverished sections of the population where venereal diseases causing genital sores are rampant and are a primary source of HIV infection. This is reflected in U.S. Center for Disease Control reports that the infection rate through heterosexual transmission jumped 36 percent from 1988 to 1989.

Some 6 million people are believed to be infected worldwide. Underdeveloped countries have been hardest hit.

"For those of us living in the part of the world where health, hygiene, basic facilities and the tools for communicating ideas are less established, the impact of AIDS is awesome," Kenyan delegate Eunice Muringo Kiereini told the conference.

In Africa, more than 400,000 AIDS cases have been reported and 3.5 million people have been infected with HIV, including 600,000 children under the age of 5, she reported. More than a million children under 10 have mothers who are infected with AIDS.

Inmates discuss world politics, socialism at meeting of groups in Arizona prison

BY JUDY WHITE

PHOENIX — "We stand for internationalism. We stand for women's rights. We stand for the dignity of the people of the world even though we are here in prison. We stand here today as representatives of the working class, those who have been despised and prevented from running the world."

With these words, Balagoon Moyenda, chairman of the African Culture Workshop (ACW) at the Federal Correctional Institution 25 miles north of here, introduced three representatives of the Phoenix Pathfinder Bookstore.

The seventy prisoners attending the meeting heard a presentation by Danny Booher of the Pathfinder Bookstore on world politics today. Afterward they engaged in a lively discussion that lasted three hours.

At the initiative of the ACW, the bookstore representatives had been invited to FCI by the Black, Latino, American Indian, and Asian prisoners' organizations at the facility. This was the first meeting organized jointly by all the groups representing the oppressed minorities at FCI and its success was registered in the attendance of inmates of all colors. Representatives of each organization made brief remarks at the beginning of the program, speaking of the need for mutual respect and unity, despite cultural differences.

"We are here to build up the muscle of the mind," said Oba Shakur as he opened the meeting. "This is the most powerful muscle," he continued, urging those in attendance to have an open mind.

There were questions following Booher's presentation on the character of the new Nicaraguan government and on what has happened in South Africa since Nelson Mandela's release from prison.

"How far must economic disenfranchisement go before things change?" asked one prisoner. "Will the guillotine be hoisted at some time?"

The discussion began in earnest when one prisoner asked, "How can you take a stance against capitalist oppression like Mark Curtis did without picking up arms?" He pointed to a display on the case of Mark Curtis, a young packinghouse worker and socialist currently serving a 25-year sentence in the Iowa prison system on frame-up charges. This display, along with another featuring titles distributed by Pathfinder, had been brought into the prison for the event.

Many of those in attendance were familiar with Curtis' case and responded positively to a pledge by ACW President Moyenda to send a message of solidarity to Curtis from FCI inmates.

One theme that provoked considerable

debate was whether socialism and religion are compatible. Several speakers argued that religious differences are one of the tools the oppressors use to keep working people divided and confused about the nature of their oppression. They spoke of what Malcolm X had said about leaving one's religious beliefs at home when fighting for human rights.

The formal part of the meeting concluded with an announcement by the ACW that it would organize to see that each sponsoring organization got a subscription to the *Militant or Perspectiva Mundial* through the publications' prisoners' fund and that it would be working on ordering additional Pathfinder titles at the special discount available to workers behind bars.

One prisoner told the representatives from Phoenix he had first gotten acquainted with the *Militant* in Soledad prison in California in 1978.

Another, a former member of the New Jewel Movement in Grenada, had run into the paper in Brooklyn where he was living in the mid-1980s.

One inmate said he was introduced to Marxism at the federal prison in Leavenworth, Kansas. He assured the visitors that FCI inmates would be inviting Pathfinder to return soon to continue the discussion.